FIRST COMICS
HE'S BACK!!
APR. $1.00
NO. 1
$1.25 CANADA
PREMIERE ISSUE!
E-MAN
emc
Staton
© 1982 FIRST COMICS, INC.
in this issue!
LIGHTS! CAMERA!
CATACLYSM!

FIRST™ NOTES

It might be Christmastime where you are, but here in the offices of **First Comics**, it is 82° and early October, and I've got lots of things to talk about this month.It's hard to fake the holiday spirit. . .

FIRST COMICS DEBUTS TO UNPRECEDENTED RAVES!

Don't you just hate that type of mindless hype? I mean most of our readers are sophisticated enough to know there is no possible way for us to have any meaningful feedback on last month's issue; **Warp #1** went on sale in mid-November, and I'm writing this column at the beginning of October.

But I will say this: we have had a great deal of positive comments; our early orders on **Warp #1** look like the book will exceed our expectations by some distance, and our subscription orders are quite formidable. In fact, we've been sailing along so smoothly the past several months that we almost were afraid to publish **Warp #1** in fear of putting an end to all that good energy. But after taking a look at our first issue – and the work thus far on this month's books and next – we realized we were being more than a bit paranoid.

As for unprecedented raves, last month's **First Comics** release did exceed all sales on all previous **First Comics** releases.

WEIRD FEELINGS

Sounds like the name of an underground romance book, right?

Last month, Joe, Bruce and I just happened to be at a party largely attended by underground comics people (the party just happened to be at Joe's place) – including Denis Kitchen, Jay Lynch, Steve Stiles, Jay Kinney, Skip Williamson and Gary Whitney. At one point, Joe and I looked at the gathered crowd and wondered if this wouldn't be the time to think seriously about doing some sort of humor-oriented title, with an impact on the 1980s similar to the impact *Mad* had on the 1950s or *National Lampoon* had on the 1970s. A likely observation, considering all the fantastic talent gathered in the room at the time.

The weird thing was, all this fantastic talent – creators of much of the finest satirical stuff in comics over the past fifteen years – were talking about something completely different: they were wondering if this wasn't the time to recreate the fantastic EC horror comics of the 1950s! Different strokes for different folks.

But I will give a plug to some folks who really deserve it. The underground comics, as we know 'em, are not dead, they've only become harder to find. There's still a lot of fantastic stuff out there, and if you are of an "adult" age, you certainly can get the latest undergrounds via mail. The very same store that sells you **First Comics** probably carries *The Spirit* from Kitchen Sink – one of the leading publishers of underground comics – and that magazine cleverly carries mail-order ads for the undergrounds published by Kitchen, as well as those published by most of the other guys. There are other mail-order distributors of undergrounds as well – Bud Plant comes to mind most readily – and they advertise in **The Buyer's Guide** and other comics fan publications.

End of plug. I'll take that free ad now, Denis.

MANDO'S THE NAME. . .

As of this writing, one of the things that separates the new publishers from the old is that most of our comics – and *all* of **First's** – are published on something called 37 lb. Mando stock, which is about 15% thicker and a whole lot whiter than the stuff you are used to seeing comics printed on. Yep, it's more expensive.

We're printing on Mando for two reasons:

1) It looks better. Colors are more vibrant, without being downright glaring. Solid blacks look better.

2) On 37 lb. stock, you are less likely to be able to read two pages at the same time – the right-hand page forwards, and the following left-hand page backwards, bleeding through the aforementioned right-hand page, and vice versa.

INSIDE OUT

Office Meanderings: **Joe Staton's** artwork graces the long-awaited G.I. Joe game from International Games. . . Writer **John Ostrander** currently is in the process of performing in Christmas Carol at Chicago's Goodman Theatre, for the fourth year running. Scrooge is played by William J. Norris, who was the original Symax in the *Warp* stage-plays. . . If you zot on out to your friendly neighborhood bookstore and take even a passing glance at the science-fiction racks, you'll see about a dozen **Howard Chaykin** covers, mostly from Tor Books, mostly wraparounds, and mostly fantastic. Chaykin's initial gracing of the **First Comics'** pages will occur this March. . . **Mike Grell** and his hard-working wife Sharon (hey, you try and live with Mike sometime) just completed their move from the wilds of Northern Wisconsin to the wilds of Idaho. Well, at least the weather's better, Mike.

NEXT MONTH

The **Warp** saga continues (Cumulus goes to hell?), **E-Man** meets the F-Men, and we start dating our checks "1983." Damn; I just stopped dating mine "1981."

– Mike Gold,
Editor

ALSO FIRST IN DECEMBER:

WARP #2: "My Battlefield, My Body," continuing the seminal Warp tale. Lord Cumulus meets the ultimate vileness, Chaos – Prince of Madness, and let me tell you, the meeting's none too pleasant. All courtesy of Frank Brunner, storyteller and penciller, Peter Gillis, dialogist, and Bob Smith, inker. Rounding out the issue, the first of a three-part Faceless Ones story written by Jack C. Harris and drawn by Steve Ditko! **Warp #2** is on sale right now!

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Joe Staton, Art Director
Rick Oliver, Associate Editor
Bruce Patterson, Production Coordinator

Richard Felber, Business Manager
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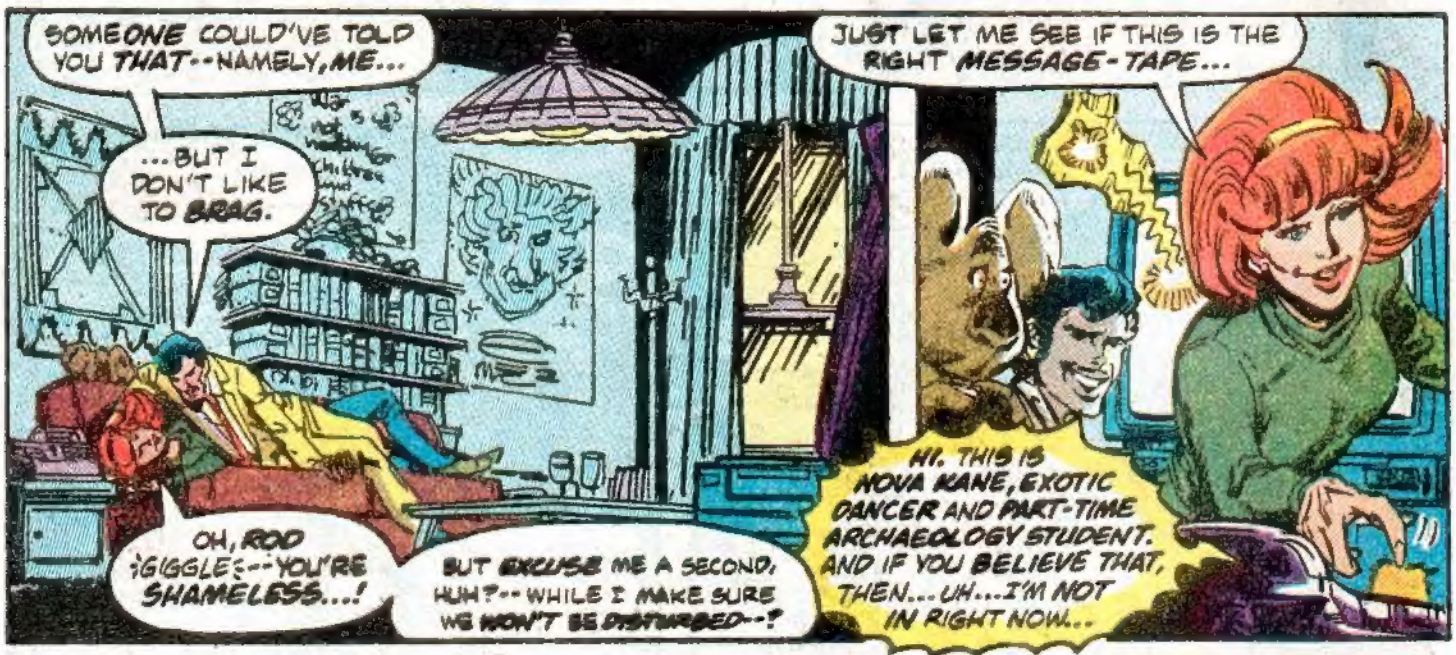
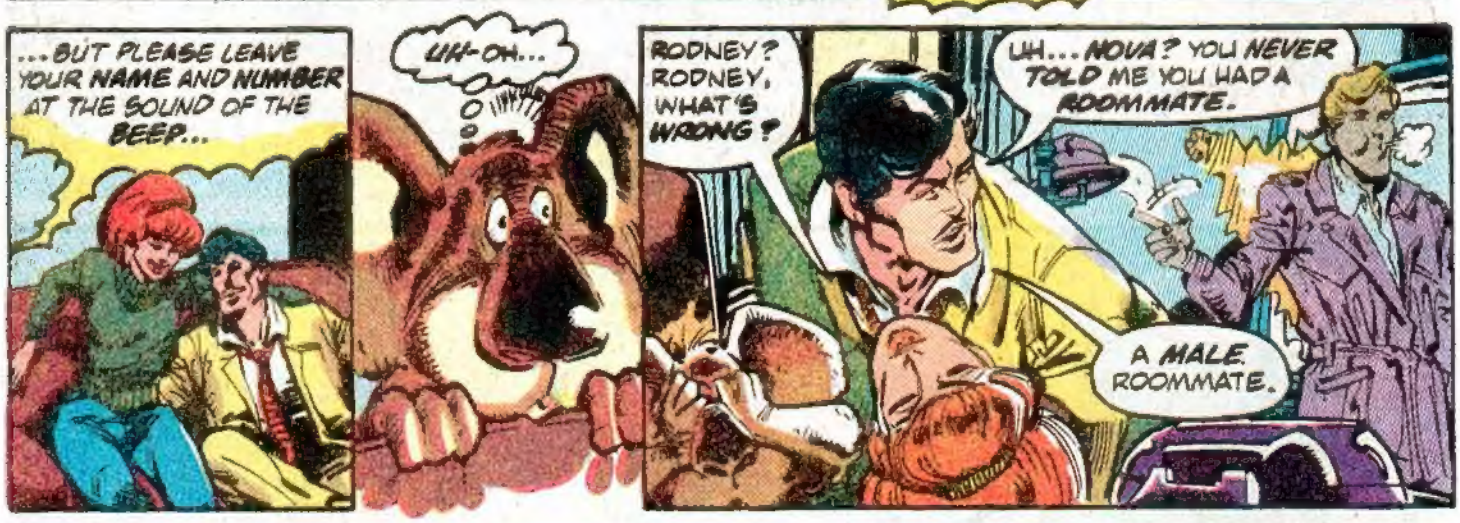
A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

SUBMITTED FOR YOUR APPROVAL: PORTRAIT OF A MOVIE STAR--
--- GARRISON BELLDT, FILMING AN IMPORTANT STUNT FOR A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE:
UH...ART? SHOULDN'T STUNT-PEOPLE BE DOING THIS?
GARRISON, BOOBIE, RELAX. THE BIG ROCK'S ON TRACKS. NOTHING CAN GO WRONG.
TRUST ME, WILLYA?
AUNT JEMIMA'S PANCAKE MAKEUP
WE'VE ALREADY SHOT SECOND-UNIT FOR THIS SCENE WITH THE STUNT-GUYS.
NOW WE NEED TO SEE "MINNESOTA SCHWARTZ" AND THE GIRL IN CLOSEUP.
CAMERA?
ROLLING.
SOUND?
SLATE IT.
SPEED.
"RIDERS OF THE LAST BUICK II"-- SCENE 240, SOUND 37, TAKE ONE.
SCENE 240
RIDERS OF THE LAST BUICK
SMAK
AND... ACTION!
"BUT DER ACTOR UND HIS LEADINK LADY CAN'T POZZIBLY KNOW DOT DERE IS A DEFECT IN DER TRACKS ON WHICH DER GIANT PLASTER BOULDER ROLLS...
"...UND DOT DER ACCI-DENT IT VILL CAUSE VILL SEND DEM ON A VUN-WAY JOURNEY INTO...
BOUNCE
"...DER DANGER ZONE."

"MEANWHILE, IN A CERTAIN APARTMENT IN A BROWNSTONE OVERLOOKINK DER PEAZEFUL CAMPUS OF XANADU UNIVERSITY..."
DAILY ASTEROID
PENTAGON SAYS NUCLEAR WAR "WINNABLE"
NASA REACTIVATES APOLLO PROGRAM; CITES GREEN CHEESE SHORTAGE
E-MAN
CREATED BY NICOLA CUTI AND JOE STATON
NOVA, HONEY, I'VE HAD A TERRIFIC TIME TONIGHT.
YEAH. ME, TOO, RODNEY...
...AND SOMETHING TELLS ME THE BEST IS YET TO COME!


SOMEONE COULD'VE TOLD YOU THAT--NAMELY, ME...
...BUT I DON'T LIKE TO BRAG.
JUST LET ME SEE IF THIS IS THE RIGHT MESSAGE-TAPE...
OH, ROD [GIGGLE]--YOU'RE SHAMELESS...!
BUT EXCUSE ME A SECOND, HUH?--WHILE I MAKE SURE WE WON'T BE DISTURBED--?
HI. THIS IS NOVA KANE, EXOTIC DANCER AND PART-TIME ARCHAEOLOGY STUDENT. AND IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, THEN...UH...I'M NOT IN RIGHT NOW...

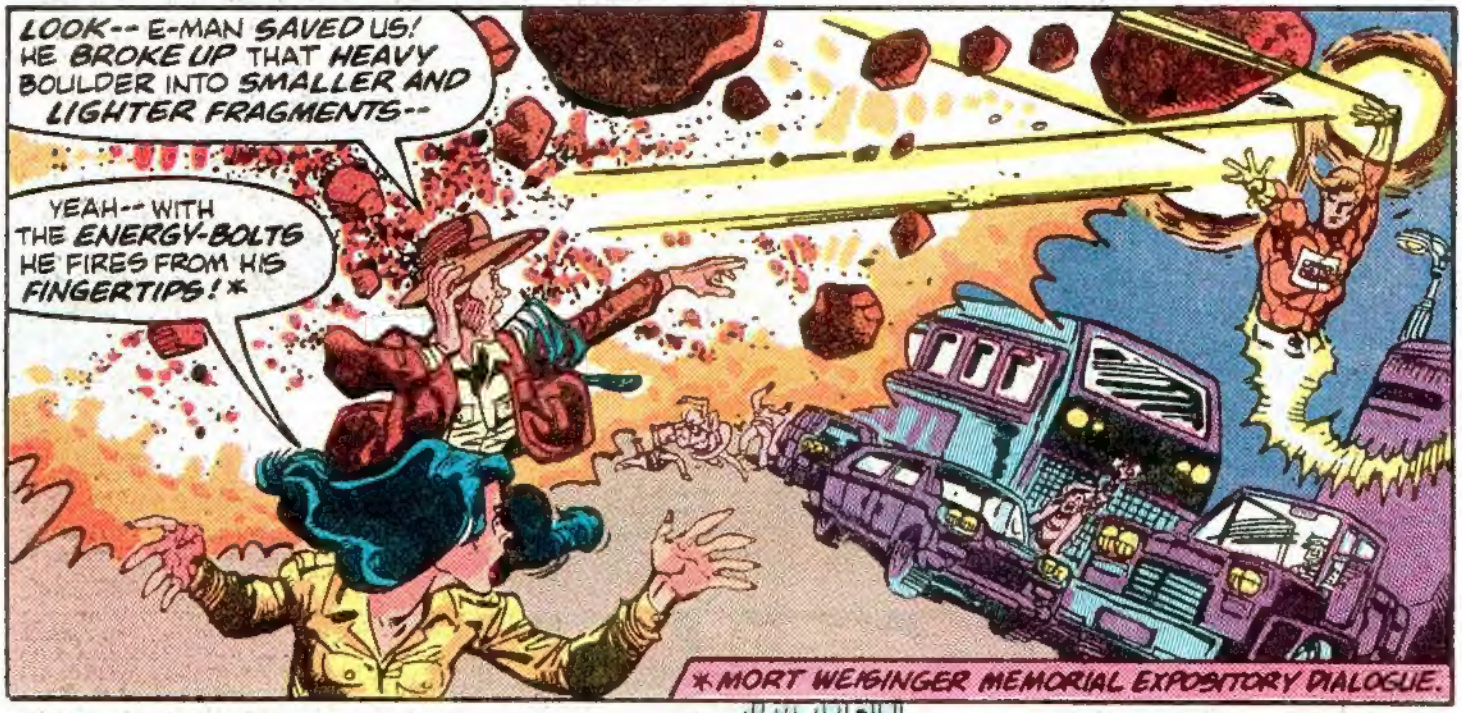

...BUT PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER AT THE SOUND OF THE BEEP...
UH-OH...
RODNEY? RODNEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
UH...NOVA? YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU HAD A ROOMMATE.
A MALE ROOMMATE.

ROOMMATE?!
HEY!
NOT AGAIN... PLEASE, LORD, NOT AGAIN! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL HIM...?!

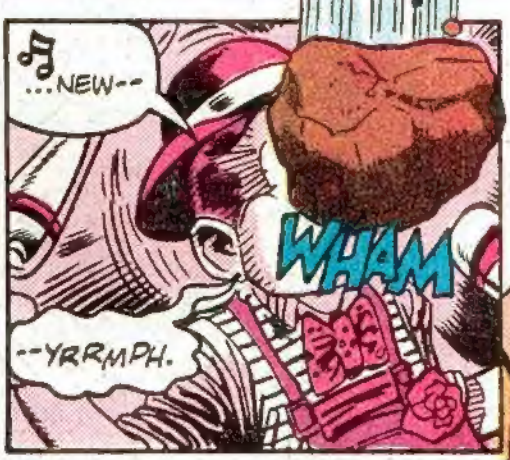
ALEC! DO YOU MIND...?!
OOPS. SORRY--I FORGOT YOU WERE HAVING COMPANY TONIGHT!
SO...UH...WHO'S THE GUY, NOVA? AND, LIKE, HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON?

"GUY?" WHAT GUY? DO YOU SEE A GUY? I DON'T SEE A GUY! WE'RE ALONE HERE, RODNEY.
SURELY I'D TELL YOU IF THERE WAS A G--
C'MON, NOVA, I KNOW WHAT I SAW! I'M NOT AN IDI--
BONK
OWW!
OH, RODNEY, HONEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
NEVER MIND THAT-- JUST TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE!
HMM...! I'LL PROBABLY HEAR ABOUT THIS IN THE MORN--
EEEEEEEEEEEE
--EH? WHAT'S THAT--?
SOUNDS LIKE...
...A SCREAM--!
A MOVIE-CREW-- FILMING A STUNT-SEQUENCE ON LOCATION IN THE PARK--
--AND IT'S GONE DISASTROUSLY WRONG!
"UND FAST AS LIGHT-SPEED, DER IMMATERIAL INVESTIGATOR TRANS-FORMZ HIMZELF FROM MATTER TO ENERGY--
"--MIDOUT A SINGLE THOUGHT FOR HIS OWN SAFETY...OR FOR DER LAWS OF PHYZICS AS VE KNOW DEM!"
3

"GRACEFULLY, HE PLUNGES FROM DER VINDOW-- BECOMINK A SOUND WAVE-- TO TRANSPORT HIMSELF INSTANTLY TO DER SCENE..."
...AND BLAST THAT "BOULDER" APART BEFORE IT CAN CRUSH ANYONE!
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY-- IT'S A BIRD--
NO WONDER PEOPLE THINK YER BORIN', HARVEY--
--YOU AIN'T NEVER HAD A ORIGINAL THOUGHT IN YER LIFE!
IT'S E-MAN!
BOULDER
SCREECH
HONK IF YOU LOVE JESUS
HONK IF YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS
E.M.
PHONE HOME
PLOTTED AND WRITTEN BY MARTIN PASKO
DRAWN BY JOE STATON
LETTERED AND COLORED BY BRUCE D. PATTERSON
EDITED BY MIKE GOLD
4


LOOK-- E-MAN SAVED US! HE BROKE UP THAT HEAVY BOULDER INTO SMALLER AND LIGHTER FRAGMENTS--
YEAH-- WITH THE ENERGY-BOLTS HE FIRES FROM HIS FINGERTIPS! *
* MORT WEISINGER MEMORIAL EXPOSITORY DIALOGUE.

I... LOVE NEW YAAAAWWW-WKKK...! I... LOVE...


...NEW--
WHAM
--YRRMPH.

UH-OH-- AS NOVA WOULD SAY, "WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET!"

"UND SPEAKINK OF NOVA..."
ALL RIGHT... I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH. I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND, BUT--
--EH? SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE OUTSIDE!
EEEEE
RODNEY, YOU HAVE TO GO!
HUH? WHAT?!

SEE? I TOLDJA YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
NOW WAIT A MINUTE--
ALL RIGHT, HE'S MY COUSIN-- MY COUSIN ERNIE FROM DETROIT-- AND THERE'S NOTHING HAPPENING BETWEEN US.
SATISFIED NOW?

NO... BUT YOU'RE GETTING WARMER.
Y'SEE, IT'S PROBABLY JUST ALL THE CHAMPAGNE I DRANK, BUT AT FIRST, I THOUGHT I SAW HIM POP OUT OF THE TV-SET!
I FELT LIKE I'D JUST MET A MAN FROM MARS!
CLOSE.

"UND BEFORE RODNEY CAN SAY ANODDER VORD, DERE IS A BRIGHT, BLINDINK FLASH--

"--UND VHERE HAD STOOD YOUR SIMPLE, AVERAGE EXOTIC DANCER NAMED NOVA KANE, NOW STANDS A SUPER-HEROINE NAMED...

"...NOVA!"

SORRY, RODNEY. I TRIED TO EXCUSE MYSELF GRACEFULLY...

...BUT, NO--YOU FORCED ME TO USE MY ENERGY-MANIPULATING POWERS TO SLOW DOWN YOUR BRAIN'S ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY...

...AND PUT YOU IN TEMPORARY SUSPENDED ANIMATION WHILE I DO MY SUPER-HEROINE SHTIK!

"VHILE OUTSIDE..."

COULDN'T JUST BREAK UP THAT ROCK--

--I'LL HAVE TO COLLECT THE DEBRIS AS WELL...

...BY RE-SHAPING MY MATTER INTO A RECEPTACLE FOR IT!

"UND IN SECONDS..."

THAT E-MAN--HE'S MY KINDA GUY!

YEAH... BETCHA HE DON'T EAT NO QUICHE...

E., BABY! HEY, E.! YOU DON'T MIND IF I CALL YOU E.--?

I'M STRINGPULL SCHMALTZBERG--THE PRODUCER OF THIS FILM.

PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD OF ME? I'M GOD IN THE MOVIE BIZ.

I GIVE THE WORD TOMORROW, AND THE UNIVERSAL GLOBE GOES CONDO...

ARE YOU ART LANDISH, THE DIRECTOR OF THIS FILM?

UH... YEAH...

COME WITH US. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST--

--FOR CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE...ENDANGERING LIVES...FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH LOCAL SAFETY CODES...

BUT...BUT...YOU CAN'T DO THIS! I'M AN AUTEUR! DIDN'TCHA SEE THAT GREAT SHOT WE GOT?

E.--HOW'D YA LIKE TO BE--A MOVIE STAR?!

"MEANWHILE, IN NOVA'S APARTMENT, WHERE E-MAN LIVES IN HIS CIVILIAN IDENTITY OF PRIVATE DETECTIVE ALEC TRONN...

HMPH! LOOKS LIKE WHATEVER THE TROUBLE WAS, ALEC TOOK CARE OF IT--AS E-MAN.

SIGH! HE ALWAYS DOES.

WELL... MIGHT AS WELL TAKE RODNEY HOME. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG A NIGHT ALREADY.

"UND ELSE HERE IN NEW YORK'S GREENWICH VILLAGE..."

I NEED FRESH FACES--AND I COULD USE A GUY WITH YOUR KIND OF TALENT, E..

SEE, I'M DIRECTIN' THIS PICTURE--"V.D., THE ULTRA-DETESTABLE." IT'S ABOUT AN ALIEN... AND I FIGURE YOU FOR THE TITLE ROLE.

ILLUSIONS of GRANDEUR

VIDEO-GAMES

Special Tonight

FREE SOUVLAKI TO ALL "DONKEY PONG" RECORD-BREAKERS--COMPLIMENTS DMITRI CONJUNCTIVITIS, PROPRIETOR

Laund

No Charge

WELL, I'M... AH... I'M NOT REALLY A PERFORMER, MISTER--

SPACE INVADERS

INVADERS of MY SPACE

KILL MY LANDLORD

JUNKM

CALL ME S.S., E.

AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I DON'T WANT A LOT OF ACTORISH POSTURING.

GORE-EATERS

Tarantula

VAMP BAT

CLAIM MY MOTHER

JUNKM

GAME OVER

I WANT FRESHNESS... HONEST EMOTIONS...

GRRR...

...BECAUSE "V.D." IS ABOUT WARMTH--AS IT EXISTS SPECIFICALLY IN CHILDREN.

IT'S A PEOPLE-STORY ABOUT THE SHARING AND CARING THAT ARE PART OF THE HUMAN CONDITION--

RAPIS

HALLOWEEN

FRIDAY the 13TH

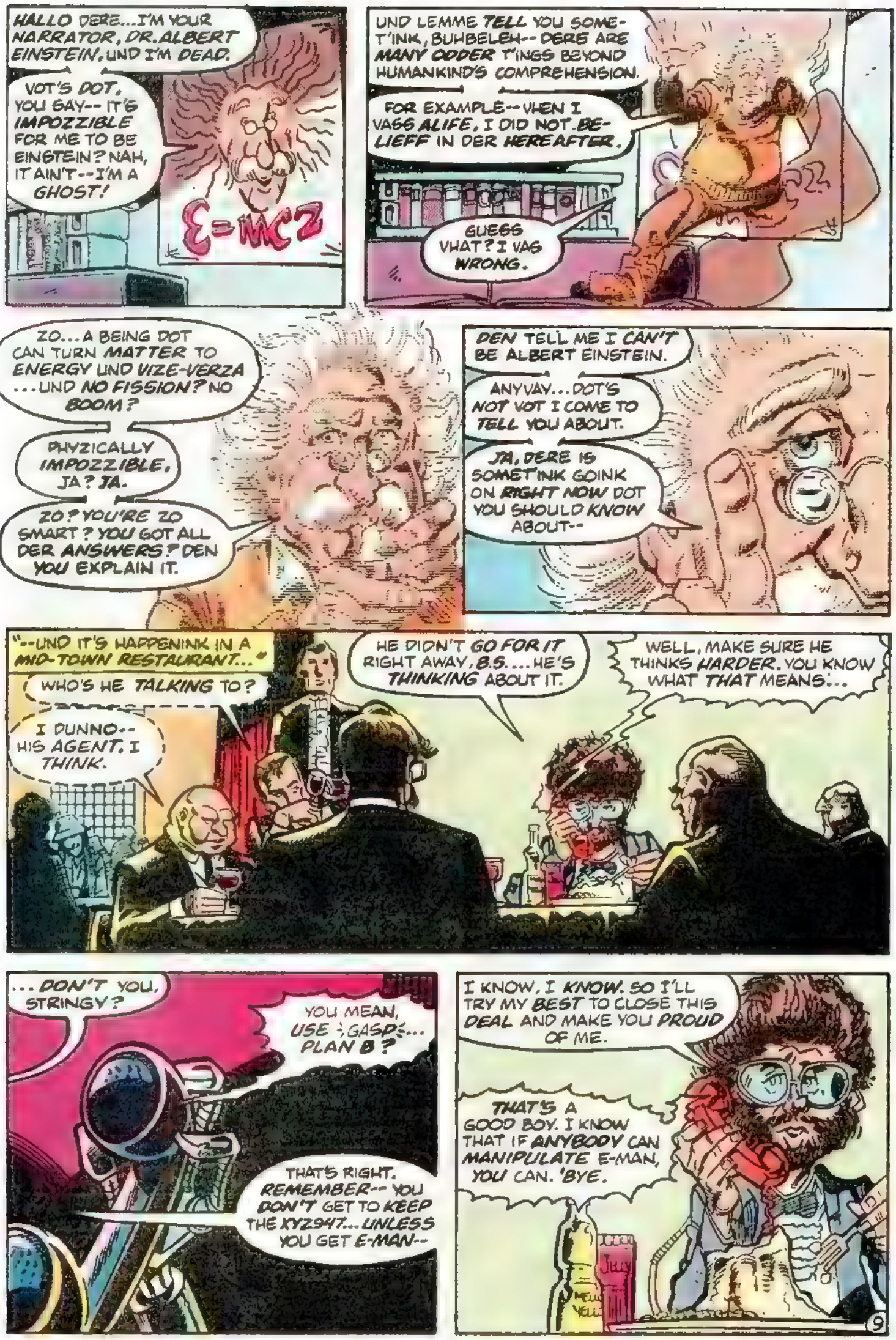
JUNK

RESET

--UNTIL THEY'RE BRED OUT OF US BY THE SOCIETY THAT TEACHES US TO HATE!

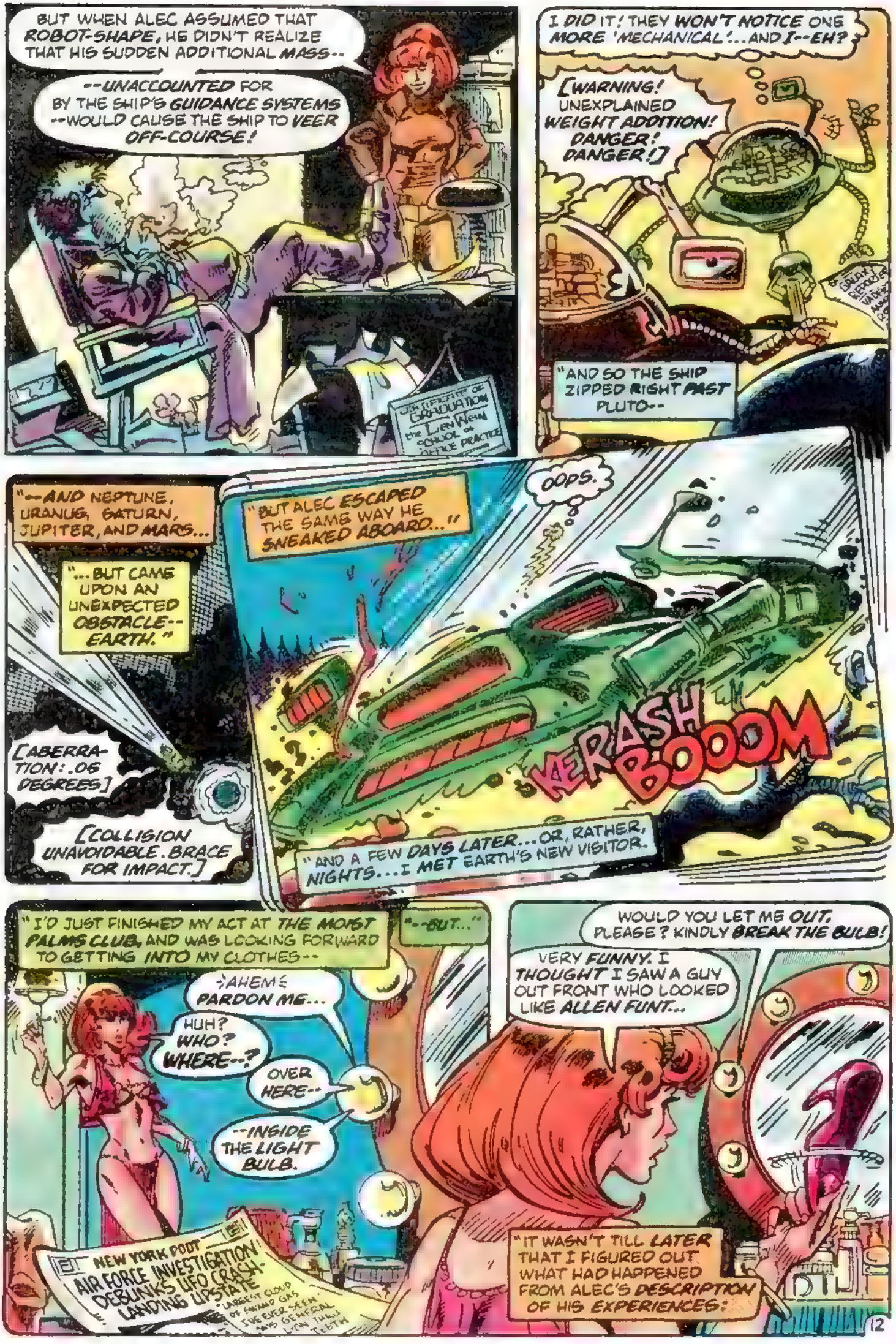
IT'S ABOUT INNOCENCE, E.--

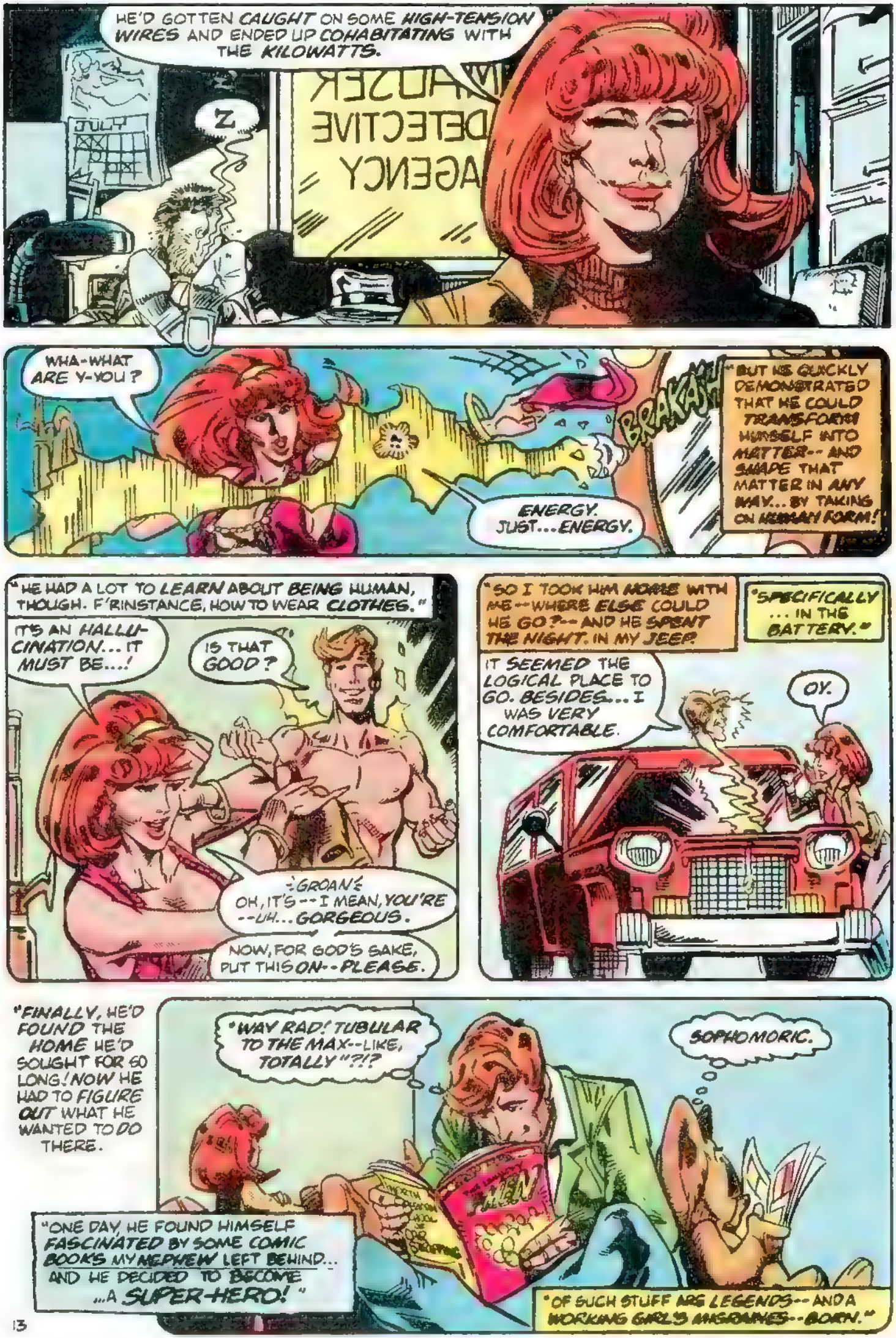
...THE --UH-- INNOCENCE OF CHILDHOOD...
...AS S-SYMBOLIZED BY TH-THE ALIEN...WHO...WHO IS F-FREE OF THE CY-CYNICISM OF OUR AGE...
WHINE
Jimmy
AT LEAST READ THE SCRIPT BEFORE YOU SAY "NO!" IT'S THE BEST SCREENPLAY I'VE HAD SINCE MY REMAKE OF "OLD YELLER"--
--YOU KNOW, THE ONE WHERE THE DOG DOESN'T STAY DEAD?
HMM... I DON'T KNOW...
ILLUSION
BUSINESS WEEK
HAIR TO CONTROL
MAYBE I COULD DO IT. IT'D ALMOST BE LIKE PLAYING MYSELF.
AFTER ALL, I AM AN ALIEN.
UH...GULP! I'M HIP.
BESIDES, I'VE BEEN WONDERING LATELY WHAT ELSE THERE IS IN LIFE FOR ME. BESIDES BEING A SUPER-HERO, I MEAN.
"UND OUR POWER-PACKED PALADIN IS NOT DER ONLY VUN WHO ISS HAFFING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT DER HERO'S LOT..."
TRUTH TO TELL, I'M KIND OF GLAD I DIDN'T HAVE TO TURN INTO "E-MAN'S PARTNER, NOVA--
"...THE ENERGY-BEING THAT WALKS LIKE A WOMAN!"
E=MC2
OY. SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING ON THE BOTTOM HALF OF A BAD DOUBLE-FEATURE.
NO WONDER I FEEL RIDICULOUS IN THAT COSTUME...IN THAT IDENTITY--!
AND, SISTER, I DON'T LIKE FEELING RIDICULOUS...
EARTH TO RODNEY... COME IN, RODNEY...
BGFSTRPNTZL.
OP
E=MC2
FUNNY, I WAS JUST THINKING THAT MYSELF...
E=MC2
8

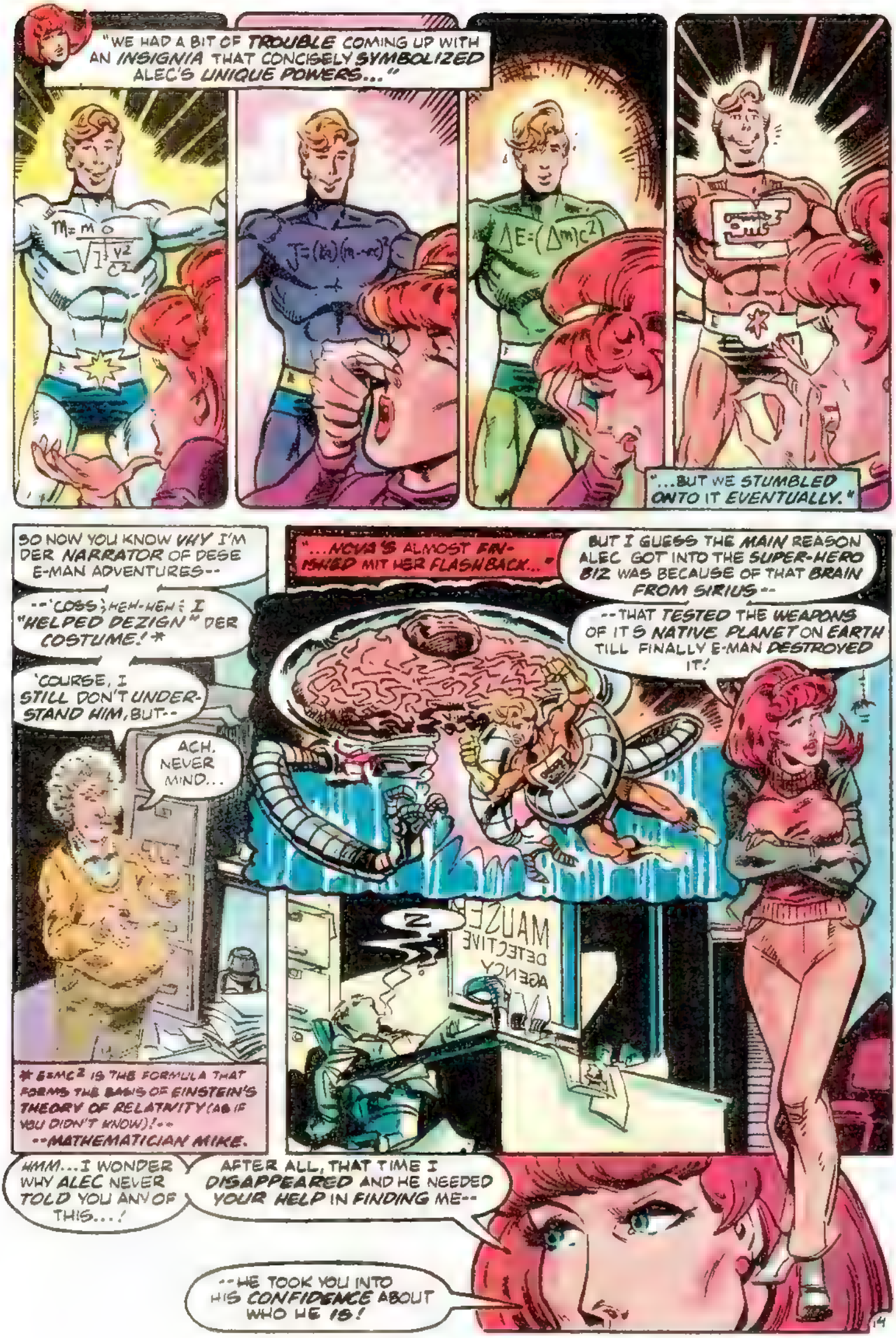

HALLO DERE...I'M YOUR NARRATOR, DR. ALBERT EINSTEIN, UND I'M DEAD.
VOT'S DOT, YOU SAY-- IT'S IMPOZZIBLE FOR ME TO BE EINSTEIN? NAH, IT AIN'T--I'M A GHOST!
E=MC2
UND LEMME TELL YOU SOMET'INK, BUHBELEH-- DERE ARE MANY ODDER T'INGS BEYOND HUMANKIND'S COMPREHENSION.
FOR EXAMPLE--VHEN I VASS ALIFE, I DID NOT BELIEFF IN DER HEREAFTER.
GUESS VHAT? I VAS WRONG.
ZO... A BEING DOT CAN TURN MATTER TO ENERGY UND VIZE-VERZA ...UND NO FISSION? NO BOOM?
PHYZICALLY IMPOZZIBLE, JA? JA.
ZO? YOU'RE ZO SMART? YOU GOT ALL DER ANSWERS? DEN YOU EXPLAIN IT.
DEN TELL ME I CAN'T BE ALBERT EINSTEIN.
ANYVAY... DOT'S NOT VOT I COME TO TELL YOU ABOUT.
JA, DERE IS SOMET'INK GOINK ON RIGHT NOW DOT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT--
"--UND IT'S HAPPENINK IN A MID-TOWN RESTAURANT..."
WHO'S HE TALKING TO?
I DUNNO-- HIS AGENT, I THINK.
HE DIDN'T GO FOR IT RIGHT AWAY, B.S.... HE'S THINKING ABOUT IT.
WELL, MAKE SURE HE THINKS HARDER. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...
...DON'T YOU, STRINGY?
YOU MEAN, USE ;GASP!... PLAN B?
THAT'S RIGHT. REMEMBER-- YOU DON'T GET TO KEEP THE XYZ947... UNLESS YOU GET E-MAN--
I KNOW, I KNOW. SO I'LL TRY MY BEST TO CLOSE THIS DEAL AND MAKE YOU PROUD OF ME.
THAT'S A GOOD BOY. I KNOW THAT IF ANYBODY CAN MANIPULATE E-MAN, YOU CAN. 'BYE.
Jelly
9

STRANGE DOINKS, NEIN?
BUT VHAT HASS ALL DIS TO DO MIT DER SUBJECT OF HOW E-MAN CAME TO BE... UND HOW HE IS EVEN POZZIBLE?
COMMEN MIT ME...
"...UND VE VILL TURN TIME AHEAD 24 HOURS --UND MEET ANODDER MEMBER OF OUR MESHUGGAH CAST..."
I'M TELLIN' YA, KANE -- I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS --
--BUT HE'S NOT ON A CASE!
NOW I'M SORRY HE AIN'T HERE TO MEET-CHA FOR LUNCH LIKE HE PLANNED, BUT WHADDYA WANT FROM ME?
I'M HIS PARTNER --CHOMP, CHOMP-- NOT HIS NURSEMAID.
UNLIKE SOME PEOPLE I KNOW.
VERY GAG FUNNY.
SO... TELL ME, KANE -- HOW'D A "HIGH-CLASS BROAD" LIKE --GULP-- YOU GET MIXED UP WITH A --URP-- FREAK LIKE TRONN, ANYWAY?
I MEAN, LIKE... WHERE'D HE COME FROM?
THEY SAY THAT IF YOU PUT AN INFINITE NUMBER OF CHIMPS IN FRONT OF AN INFINITE NUMBER OF TYPEWRITERS...
...EVENTUALLY, THEY'LL CREATE THE COMPLETE WORKS OF HAROLD ROBBINS.
POSSIBLY. BY A WEEK FROM NEXT TUESDAY.
JA--
--VHICH IS CHUST A CUTESY VAY OF SAYINK DOT, GIVEN ETERNITY, ALL T'INGS ARE NOT ONLY POZZIBLE, BUT PROBABLE.
UND ALZO... IT'S AS GOOD AN EKPLANATION AS ANY FOR DIS IMPOZZ-IBLE E-MAN PERZON.
BUT LET'S LET NOVA TELL DER STORY...

"MILLIONS OF YEARS BEFORE I NAMED HIM 'ALEC TRONN,' HE--OR IT--WAS BORN WHEN AN UNKNOWN STAR EXPLODED.
"AND AS THE DEBRIS COOLED, THE ENVELOPES OF ENERGY THE NOVA HAD CREATED WERE FLUNG INTO SPACE..."
I THINK. SO I KNOW I AM. "COGITO, ERGO SUM."
NMM... CATCHY PHRASE. I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT.
"FOR AEONS, HE WANDERED THROUGH SPACE, GAINING A SMALL DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIS UNIVERSE."
"BUT HIS BIG QUESTION WAS... WAS HE ALONE IN IT?"
"HIS SEARCH FOR ANOTHER INTELLIGENCE FINALLY ENDED WHEN HE ENCOUNTERED A STAR-SHIP FROM THE SIRIUS SYSTEM--
"--EN ROUTE TO OUR SOLAR-SYSTEM ON A DEADLY MISSION..."
WHAT IS THAT COMING CLOSER? IT'S NOT A COMET.
WAIT... I SENSE SOMETHING INSIDE...
"NOT UNTIL ALEC ENTERED THE CRUISER DID HE REALIZE THAT IT WASN'T NATURAL-- BUT THAT SOMEONE--OR SOMETHING-- INTELLIGENT HAD BUILT IT."
[ATTENTION, ALL ROBOTS--]
[-WE ARE NEARING THE UNCIVILIZED NINTH PLANET OF THIS SYSTEM.
[ITS LOWER LIFE-FORMS SHALL BE THE TEST-SUBJECTS OF OUR MASTERS' LATEST WEAPON.]
A BIG, TELEPATHIC... BRAIN?! GROSS.
"FASCINATED-- AND DETERMINED TO LEARN MORE--
"--ALEC USED THE UNUSUAL POWER HE'D DEVELOPED..."
ONCE I SAW AN ANIMAL ON SIRIUS IV AND I DUPLICATED IT HOOF TO TENDRIL-- AS A GAME.
THIS... IS A LOT MORE... COMPLICATED...
...BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN INVESTIGATE WITHOUT BEING TOO CONSPICUOUS...!


BUT WHEN ALEC ASSUMED THAT ROBOT-SHAPE, HE DIDN'T REALIZE THAT HIS SUDDEN ADDITIONAL MASS--
--UNACCOUNTED FOR BY THE SHIP'S GUIDANCE SYSTEMS --WOULD CAUSE THE SHIP TO VEER OFF-COURSE!
CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATION the LAN WEIN SCHOOL of OFFICE PRACTICE
I DID IT! THEY WON'T NOTICE ONE MORE 'MECHANICAL'... AND I--EH?
[WARNING! UNEXPLAINED WEIGHT ADDITION! DANGER! DANGER!]
"AND SO THE SHIP ZIPPED RIGHT PAST PLUTO--
"--AND NEPTUNE, URANUS, SATURN, JUPITER, AND MARS...
"... BUT CAME UPON AN UNEXPECTED OBSTACLE-- EARTH."
[ABERRATION: .05 DEGREES]
[COLLISION UNAVOIDABLE. BRACE FOR IMPACT.]
"BUT ALEC ESCAPED THE SAME WAY HE SNEAKED ABOARD..."
OOPS.
KERASH BOOOM
"AND A FEW DAYS LATER... OR, RATHER, NIGHTS... I MET EARTH'S NEW VISITOR.
"I'D JUST FINISHED MY ACT AT THE MOIST PALMS CLUB, AND WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING INTO MY CLOTHES--
"--BUT..."
WOULD YOU LET ME OUT, PLEASE? KINDLY BREAK THE BULB!
VERY FUNNY. I THOUGHT I SAW A GUY OUT FRONT WHO LOOKED LIKE ALLEN FUNT...
AHEM PARDON ME...
HUH? WHO? WHERE--?
OVER HERE--
--INSIDE THE LIGHT BULB.
NEW YORK POST
AIR FORCE INVESTIGATION DEBUNKS UFO CRASH-LANDING UPSTATE
"IT WASN'T TILL LATER THAT I FIGURED OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED FROM ALEC'S DESCRIPTION OF HIS EXPERIENCES!

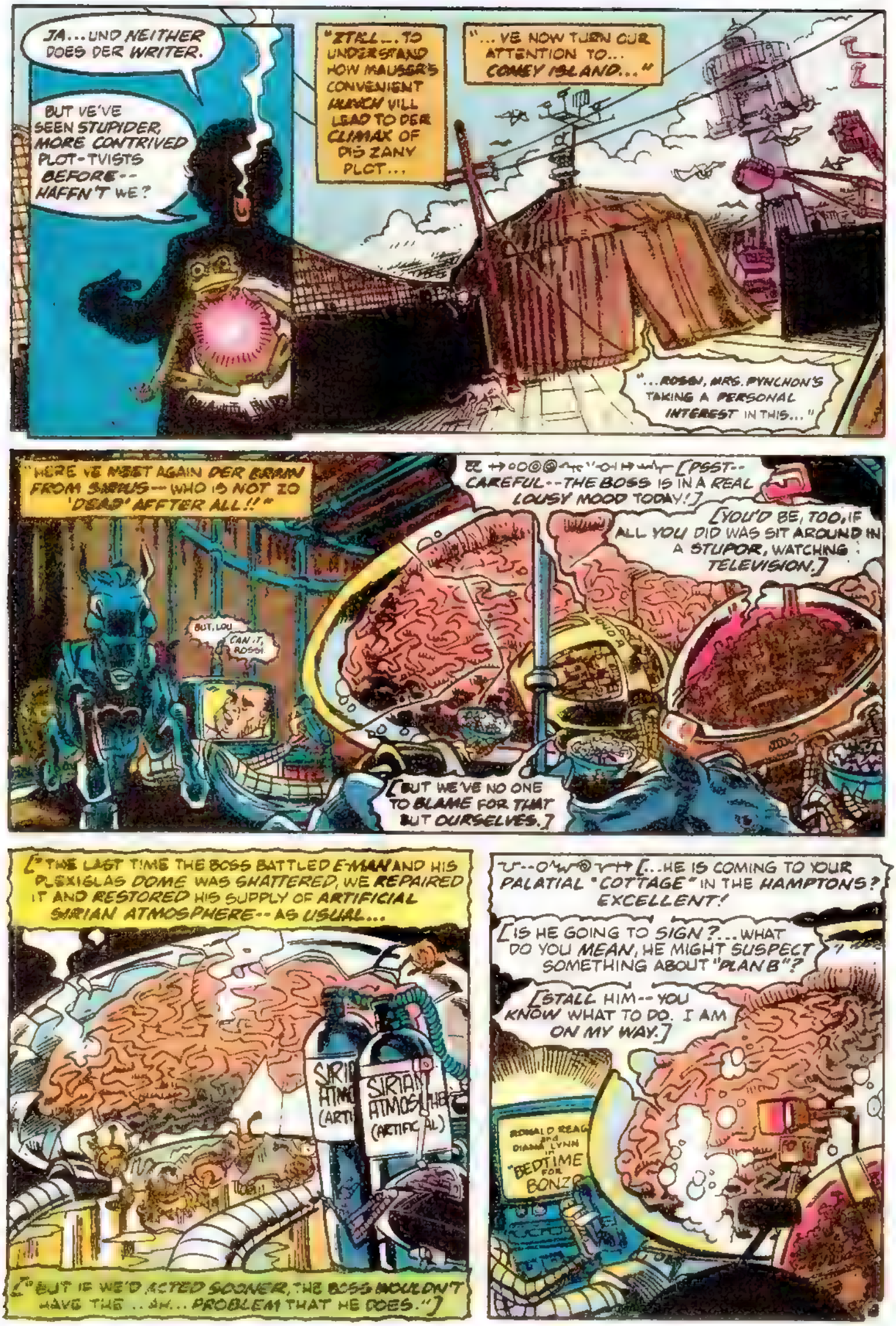

HE'D GOTTEN CAUGHT ON SOME HIGH-TENSION WIRES AND ENDED UP COHABITATING WITH THE KILOWATTS.
Z
JULY
DETECTIVE AGENCY
WHA-WHAT ARE Y-YOU?
BRAKA
"BUT HE QUICKLY DEMONSTRATED THAT HE COULD TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO MATTER-- AND SHAPE THAT MATTER IN ANY WAY... BY TAKING ON HUMAN FORM!"
ENERGY. JUST... ENERGY.
"HE HAD A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT BEING HUMAN, THOUGH. F'RINSTANCE, HOW TO WEAR CLOTHES."
IT'S AN HALLUCINATION... IT MUST BE...!
IS THAT GOOD?
:GROAN:
OH, IT'S--I MEAN, YOU'RE --UH... GORGEOUS.
NOW, FOR GOD'S SAKE, PUT THIS ON--PLEASE.
"SO I TOOK HIM HOME WITH ME--WHERE ELSE COULD HE GO?-- AND HE SPENT THE NIGHT. IN MY JEEP!
"SPECIFICALLY ... IN THE BATTERY."
IT SEEMED THE LOGICAL PLACE TO GO. BESIDES... I WAS VERY COMFORTABLE.
OY.
"FINALLY, HE'D FOUND THE HOME HE'D SOUGHT FOR SO LONG! NOW HE HAD TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HE WANTED TO DO THERE.
"WAY RAD! TUBULAR TO THE MAX--LIKE, TOTALLY"?!?
SOPHOMORIC.
"ONE DAY, HE FOUND HIMSELF FASCINATED BY SOME COMIC BOOKS MY NEPHEW LEFT BEHIND... AND HE DECIDED TO BECOME ...A SUPER-HERO!"
"OF SUCH STUFF ARE LEGENDS-- AND A WORKING GIRL'S MIGRAINES--BORN."


"WE HAD A BIT OF TROUBLE COMING UP WITH AN INSIGNIA THAT CONCISELY SYMBOLIZED ALEC'S UNIQUE POWERS..."
"...BUT WE STUMBLED ONTO IT EVENTUALLY."
SO NOW YOU KNOW WHY I'M DER NARRATOR OF DESE E-MAN ADVENTURES--
--'COSS; HEH-HEH; I "HELPED DEZIGN" DER COSTUME! *
'COURSE, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM, BUT--
ACH. NEVER MIND...
* E=MC² IS THE FORMULA THAT FORMS THE BASIS OF EINSTEIN'S THEORY OF RELATIVITY (AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW)!-- --MATHEMATICIAN MIKE.
"...NOVA'S ALMOST FINISHED MIT HER FLASHBACK..."
BUT I GUESS THE MAIN REASON ALEC GOT INTO THE SUPER-HERO BIZ WAS BECAUSE OF THAT BRAIN FROM SIRIUS--
--THAT TESTED THE WEAPONS OF IT'S NATIVE PLANET ON EARTH TILL FINALLY E-MAN DESTROYED IT!
MAUZE DETECTIVE AGENCY
HMM...I WONDER WHY ALEC NEVER TOLD YOU ANY OF THIS...!
AFTER ALL, THAT TIME I DISAPPEARED AND HE NEEDED YOUR HELP IN FINDING ME--
--HE TOOK YOU INTO HIS CONFIDENCE ABOUT WHO HE IS!

BUT WHY YOU SHOULD BE THE ONLY OTHER MAN ON EARTH WHO KNOWS THAT ALEC TRONN IS E-MAN...
...I'LL NEVER UNDERSTA--
SO... NOW YOU KNOW HOW E-MAN CAME TO BE... UND YOU'VE MET OUR ENTIRE REGULAR CAST OF MESHUGGINAHS...
?!
KAKASH
?
VARIETY
REAGAN APPOINTS DAVID BEGELMAN ATTORNEY GENERAL
SCHMALTZBERG CONFIDENT E-MAN TO STAR
BUT YOU STILL DON'T KNOW VHAT MEANS DER MYZTERIOUZ "PLAN B" UND DER CRRRYPTIC "XYZ947"--JA?
PATIENCE-- VE'RE GETTINK TO DOT!
I...HAVE...HAD...IT--!
ALEC!
I WON'T ASK WHY YOU'RE SO LATE FOR OUR LUNCH-DATE..
GOOD.
BESIDES, I'VE ALREADY EATEN LUNCH ;SPTUI;... I BELIEVE.
WHAT HAPPENED?!
I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE SCHMALTZBERG'S OFFER-- THAT'S WHAT. I'M TIRED OF THIS COSTUMED CRIME FIGHTER BUSINESS!
?!
WHAAAT?! BUT...BUT... WHY?!
THAT'S THE STRANGE PART. I'M NOT QUITE CERTAIN...
"I WAS WORKING HERE-- AS ALEC TRONN-- WHEN I HEARD THIS... MUSIC! IT WAS SO... SO LYRICAL. HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL...
"FOR SOME REASON, I WAS ...SEIZED... WITH THIS OVERWHELMING COMPULSION TO BECOME E-MAN ...AND TO GO TO THE AQUARIUM....!"
LOWER EAST SIDE AQUARIUM MEDICAID METHADONE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
HELP! HELP! SAVE ME! SAVE ME!
ENDANGERED SPECIES FISH FRY- GUEST SPEAKER: JAMES WATT BRING A FRIEND!
15

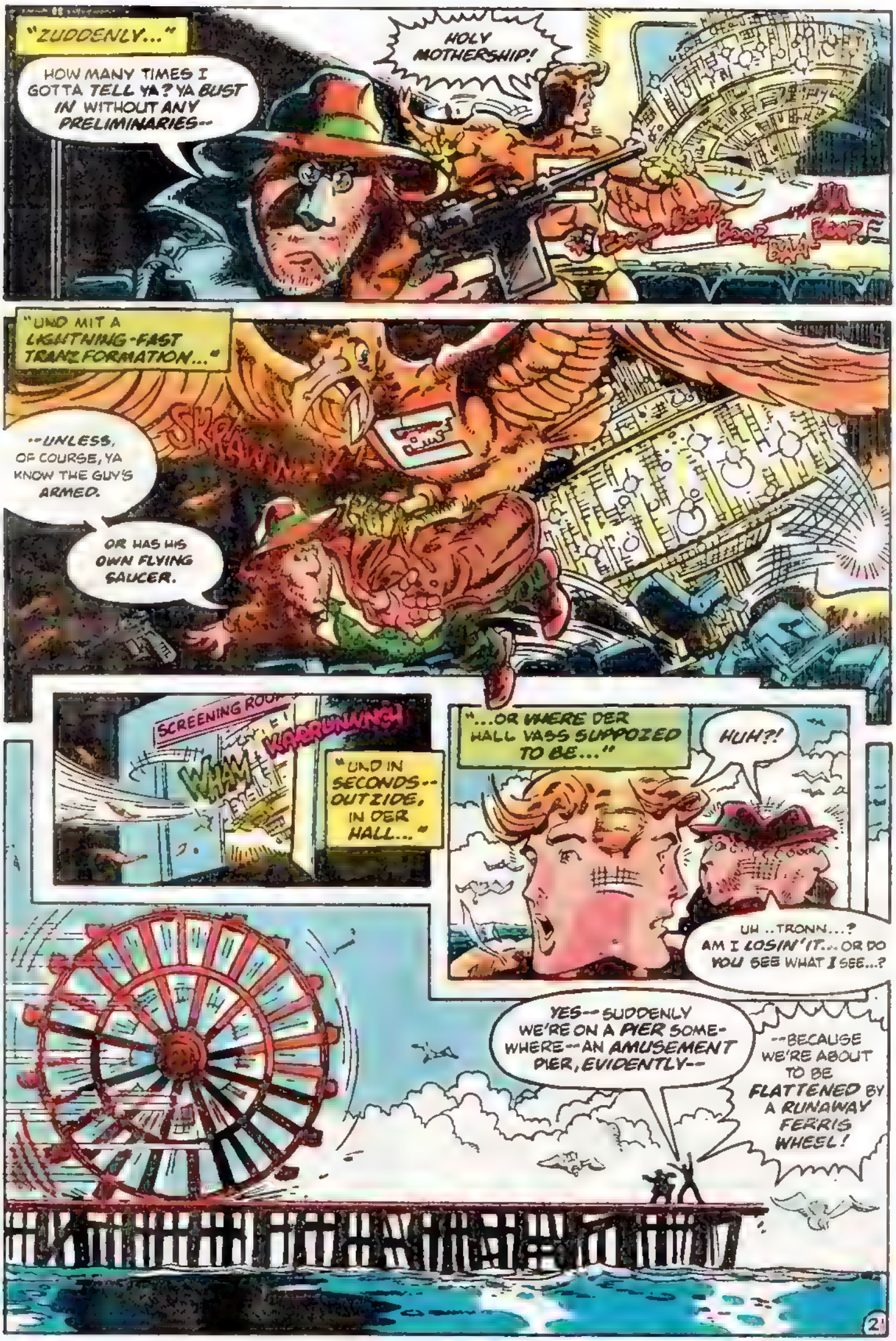
"I SEEM TO RECALL HEARING A CRY FOR HELP FROM INSIDE!"
"FOR SOME UNFATHOMABLE REASON, SOMEONE HAD THROWN A SECURITY GUARD INTO A SHARK-TANK!"
GREAT WHITE STAR OF OCEAN TANK AND SCREEN
HELP! HEL-GLUB-! HELP!
"BUT I SOON LEARNED WHY: HE WAS BEING USED AS BAIT--
"--IN A TRAP SET BY TWO RUTHLESSLY CLEVER FISH-THIEVES ATTEMPTING TO STEAL A GREAT WHITE!"
FIRST THINGS FIRST-- NAMELY, SCARING OFF THAT SHARK!
I'M AGENT FACELESS--F.B.I.! I'VE BEEN AFTER "THE FISH-THIEF GANG" FOR OVER A YEAR--
--AND YOU--YOU IDIOT... YOU LAMEBRAIN--
--HAVE JUST RUINED 12 MONTHS OF HARD UNDERCOVER WORK SETTING UP THIS TRAP!
"NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE WHITE HAD NEVER SEEN AN ELECTROPUS FROM ALPHA CENTAURI BEFORE..."
AWP!
"BUT AFTER THE SHARK HAD RETREATED AND I'D RESCUED THE GUARD, I DISCOVERED THE WOULD-BE THIEVES GONE-- AND...
F.B.I.
AGENT I.M. FACELESS
16

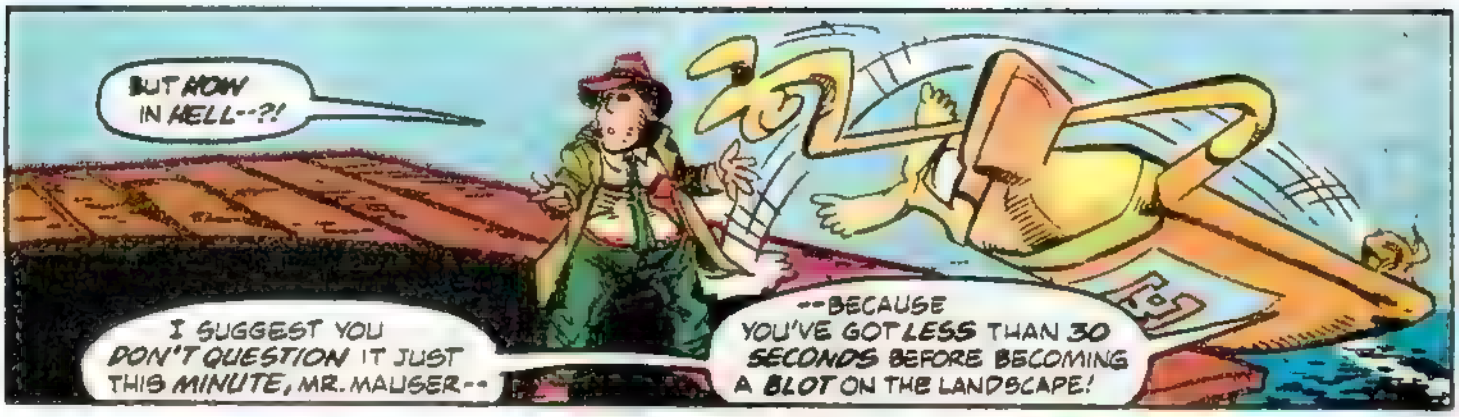
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
YOU TRY TO SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE, AND ALL YOU GET IS ABUSE. NO WONDER I WANT TO HANG UP MY CAPE!
ALEC, YOU DON'T WEAR A CAPE.
NEVER MIND THAT, KANE...
WHAT YOU JUST DESCRIBED, TRONN, SOUNDS LIKE A SCENE FROM A STRINGPULL SCHMALTZBERG MOVIE--
RIGHT--"MAMS!" I SAW THAT, TOO.
YOU HEARD MUSIC? WHAT KIND OF MUSIC?
WELL...THE MELODY WENT...SOMETHING LIKE THIS:
BOOP-BOOP-BOOP-BAA-BOOO!
AHA! THE FAMOUS THEME FROM "GROSS ENCOUNTERS OF THE WEIRD KIND!"
WAIT A MINUTE--I KNOW WHY I'M "AHA"-ING. WHY ARE YOU "AHA"-ING?
THE GUY WANTS TRONN FOR A MOVIE, RIGHT?
AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, TRONN HAS AN EXPERIENCE THAT COMPLETELY DEMORALIZES HIM--
--AN EXPERIENCE THAT SOUNDS AS IF SCHMALTZBERG HIMSELF COULD HAVE STAGED IT--
-AND IT MAKES TRONN WANT TO QUIT SUPER-HEROING AND BECOME A MOVIE STAR!
PRETTY FISHY COINCIDENCE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, TOO.
SO WHERE ARE YOU GO--
TO SCHMALTZBERG'S PALATIAL "COTTAGE" IN THE HAMPTONS--
--TO ASK HIM A FEW HARD QUESTIONS. YOU COMIN', TRONN?
WHY NOT? I DON'T HAVE ANY BETTER IDEAS..

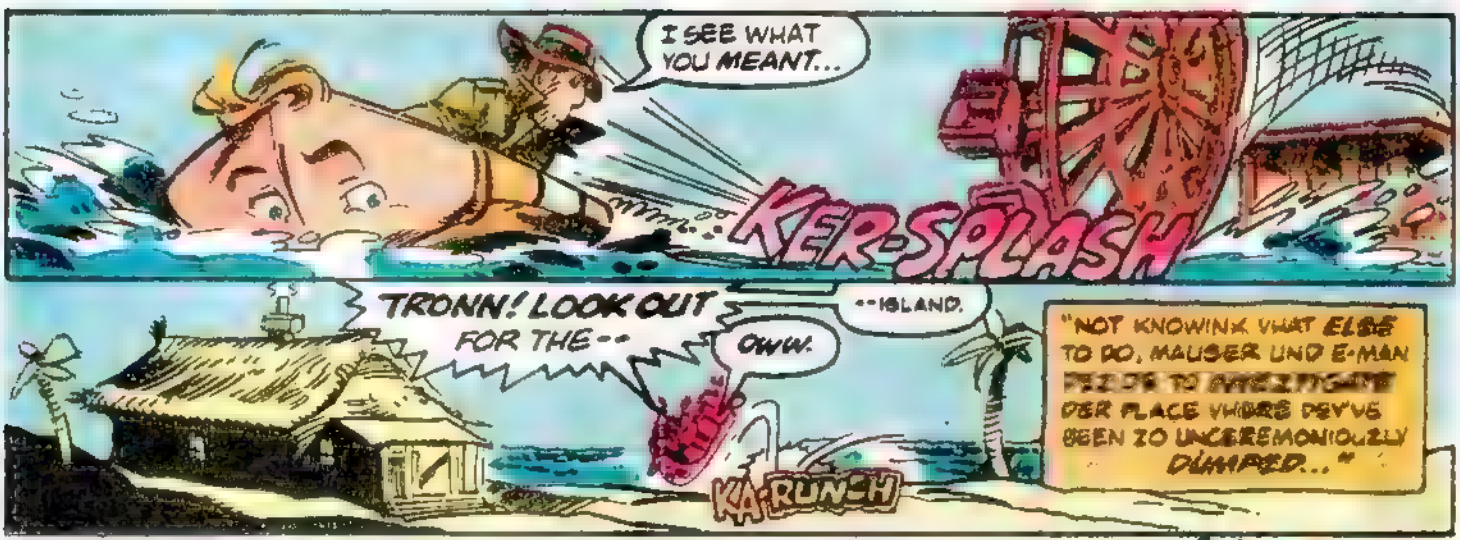

JA... UND NEITHER DOES DER WRITER.
BUT VE'VE SEEN STUPIDER, MORE CONTRIVED PLOT-TVISTS BEFORE-- HAFFN'T WE?
"ZTALL... TO UNDERSTAND HOW MAUSER'S CONVENIENT LUNCH VILL LEAD TO DER CLIMAX OF DIS ZANY PLOT...
"... VE NOW TURN OUR ATTENTION TO... COMEY ISLAND..."
"... ROSSI, MRS. PYNCHON'S TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS..."
"HERE VE MEET AGAIN DER BRAIN FROM SARUS-- WHO IS NOT SO 'DEAD' AFFTER ALL!!"
[PSST-- CAREFUL--THE BOSS IS IN A REAL LOUSY MOOD TODAY!]
[YOU'D BE, TOO, IF ALL YOU DID WAS SIT AROUND IN A STUPOR, WATCHING TELEVISION.]
BUT, LOU
CAN IT, ROSSI
[BUT WE'VE NO ONE TO BLAME FOR THAT BUT OURSELVES.]
["THE LAST TIME THE BOSS BATTLED E-MAN AND HIS PLEXIGLAS DOME WAS SHATTERED, WE REPAIRED IT AND RESTORED HIS SUPPLY OF ARTIFICIAL SIRIAN ATMOSPHERE-- AS USUAL...
SIRIAN ATMOSPHERE (ARTIFICIAL)
["BUT IF WE'D ACTED SOONER, THE BOSS WOULDN'T HAVE THE ..UH... PROBLEM THAT HE DOES."]
[...HE IS COMING TO YOUR PALATIAL "COTTAGE" IN THE HAMPTONS? EXCELLENT!
[IS HE GOING TO SIGN?... WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HE MIGHT SUSPECT SOMETHING ABOUT "PLAN B"?
[STALL HIM-- YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO. I AM ON MY WAY.]
RONALD REAGAN and DIANA LYNN in "BEDTIME FOR BONZO"

"BUT-- UNBEKNOWNST TO EITHER E-MAN OR DER BRAIN FROM SIRIUS-- DERE 'S SOMEVUN ELSE MIT PLANS DOT VILL HAFF A DIRECT IMPACT ON BOT' ZEIR LIFES."
DR. FAIRMONT, SIR, THE MAYOR WILL BE HERE SOON-- FOR A TOUR OF THE FACILITY.
ALL RIGHT, DAVID, ALL RIGHT. LET'S DO YOUR BASIC BIG FINISH, THEN-- CLEAN-UPWISE.
PARA-SIGHT INDUSTRIES, INC.
"SENSITIVITY TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS IS OUR BUSINESS"
DOES THE LAB CHECK OUT, MUTANT-ENERGIZERWISE?
YESSIR, DR. F-- TIP-TOP SHAPE, S R.
MUTANT - ENERGIZER CONTROL - CONSOLE
WHAT ABOUT THE NEXT CLASS OF MUTANT KIDS?
MUTANT ENERGIZING FACILITY
THEY'RE DUE IN ON THE 4:45 CATTLE-CAR, SIR-- READY TO BE "PROCESSED."
WHAT ABOUT THE CONSENT-FORMS? OUR MEN DID GET THEM TO SIGN THE CONSENT-FORMS, DIDN'T THEY?
WE HAVE TO BE SURE ABOUT THIS-- ABOVE-BOARDWISE, I MEAN. WE DON'T WANT TO OFFEND ANYONE.
YESSIR. WE GOT THE FORMS ALRIGHT, SIR...
BASH
...ABOARD THE CATTLE-CAR-- ON THE MUTIES' 12TH DAY OF BREAD AND WATER.
SOME OF THEM NEARLY STARVED TO DEATH, SIR.
JUST SO THEY WEREN'T OFFENDED.
THIS TIME, I INTEND TO SUCCEED-- CREATION OF AN ARMY OF A SUPER-POWERED BEINGS-WISE, THAT IS.
AND THEN I-- FORD FAIRMONT-- WILL WIN THE NOBEL PRIZE AND GET DATES AND STUFF, BECAUSE I'LL NOT ONLY BE EVEN MORE FAMOUS BUT ALSO POPULAR AND EVEN HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR, EVEN...
OHLAWDEEEEE
KLONK
KEERASH
...AND THEN 6-FOOT-TALL CHORUS WOMEN WILL OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT I THINK OF MYSELF AS A WORTHLESS, SCUM-SUCKING, GUILT-RIDDEN MAGGOT WHO DOESN'T DESERVE TO LACE A WOMAN'S COMBAT BOOTS EVEN THOUGH I HAPPEN TO BE A GENIUS--
ZZZTT
19

"MEANWHILE, BACK AT MICKEY--EH--MIKE MAUSER'S OFFICE..."
EVER SINCE I WAS TURNED INTO AN ENERGY-BEING LIKE ALEC,* I'VE RESISTED SUPER-HEROICS...
...BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I'VE JUST GOTTA BITE THE BULLET --LIKE THIS ONE...
* MORE ON THIS NEXT ISSUE!-- MICKEY (GOLD, NOT MAUSER.)
"...BECAUSE I'D BET MY ELECTRONS THAT ALEC AND MIKE ARE HEADED FOR TROUBLE AT SCHMALTZBERG'S PALATIAL RENTED COTTAGE SOMEWHERE IN THE HAMPTONS..."
BRIDGEHAMPTON
EAST HAMPTON
SOUTH HAMPTON
WEST HAMPTON
LIONEL HAMPTON
BOOP BOOP BOOP BAA
THOSE DOOR-CHIMES!--THAT'S IT--THE "MUSIC" I HEARD--!
"UND INSIDE..."
MR. SCHMALTZBERG IS EXPECTING YOU, SIRS--HE ASKS THAT YOU MEET HIM IN THE SCREENING ROOM...
"SCREENING ROOM?"
YES, SIR... UP THE STAIRS TO YOUR RIGHT.
"BUT NO SOONER DAN DER GUESTS HAFF GONE UP DER STAIRS.."
THEY'RE COMING, SIR. SHALL I ACTIVATE THE...AH...AMUSEMENTS?
YEAH, MARSHALL. AND I DON'T WANNA BE DISTURBED FOR THE NEXT HOUR, OKAY?
RECOVERED ALCOHOLIC TRANSSEXUAL LESBIAN CHILD ABUSERS ON "DONAHUE"-- 4:30 TOMORROW...
"VHILE, IN DER SCREENINK ROOM..."
AH, MR. SCHMALTZBERG... MR. SCHMALTZBERG?
GEEZE, TRONN, THAT WIMPY STUFF AIN'T GONNA CUT NO ICE WITH A BARRACUDA LIKE SCHMALTZBERG!
YE'RE WAY TOO POLITE!
BOOP BOOP BOOP BAA BOOO

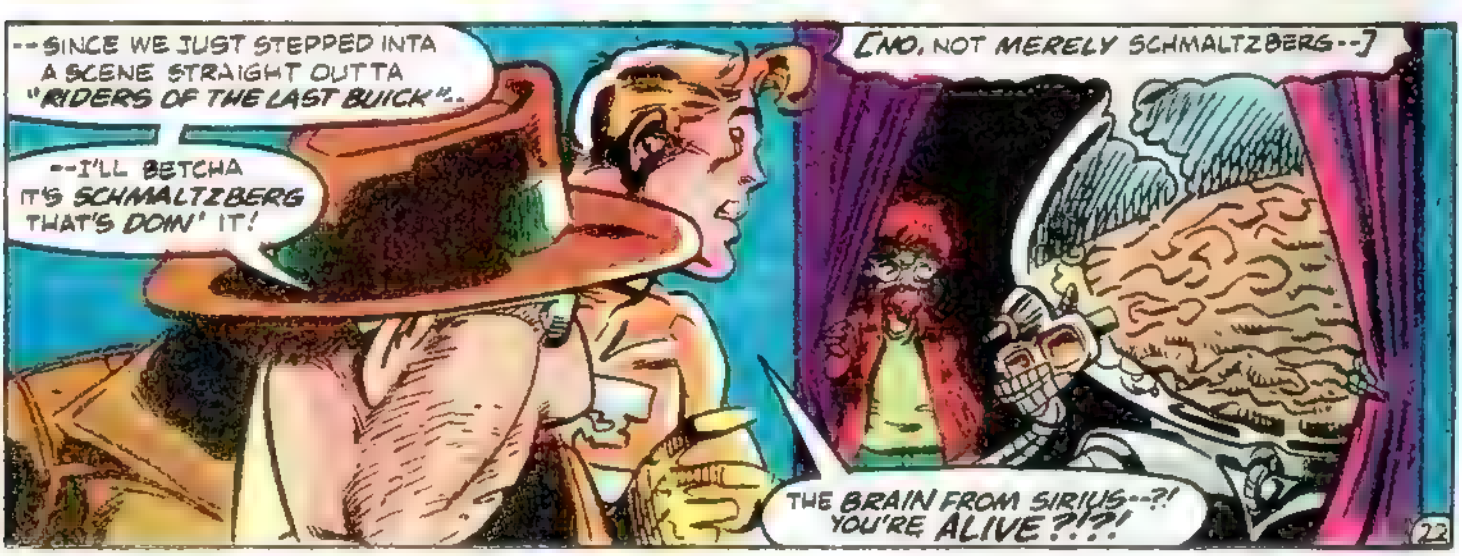

"ZUDDENLY..."
HOW MANY TIMES I GOTTA TELL YA? YA BUST IN WITHOUT ANY PRELIMINARIES--
HOLY MOTHERSHIP!
BOOP BOOP BOOP
"UND MIT A LIGHTNING-FAST TRANZ FORMATION..."
--UNLESS, OF COURSE, YA KNOW THE GUY'S ARMED.
OR HAS HIS OWN FLYING SAUCER.
SCREENING ROOM
WHAM KAABLAMM!
"UND IN SECONDS-- OUTZIDE, IN DER HALL..."
"...OR WHERE DER HALL VASS SUPPOZED TO BE..."
HUH?!
UH ..TRONN...? AM I LOSIN' IT... OR DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE...?
YES-- SUDDENLY WE'RE ON A PIER SOMEWHERE-- AN AMUSEMENT PIER, EVIDENTLY--
--BECAUSE WE'RE ABOUT TO BE FLATTENED BY A RUNAWAY FERRIS WHEEL!

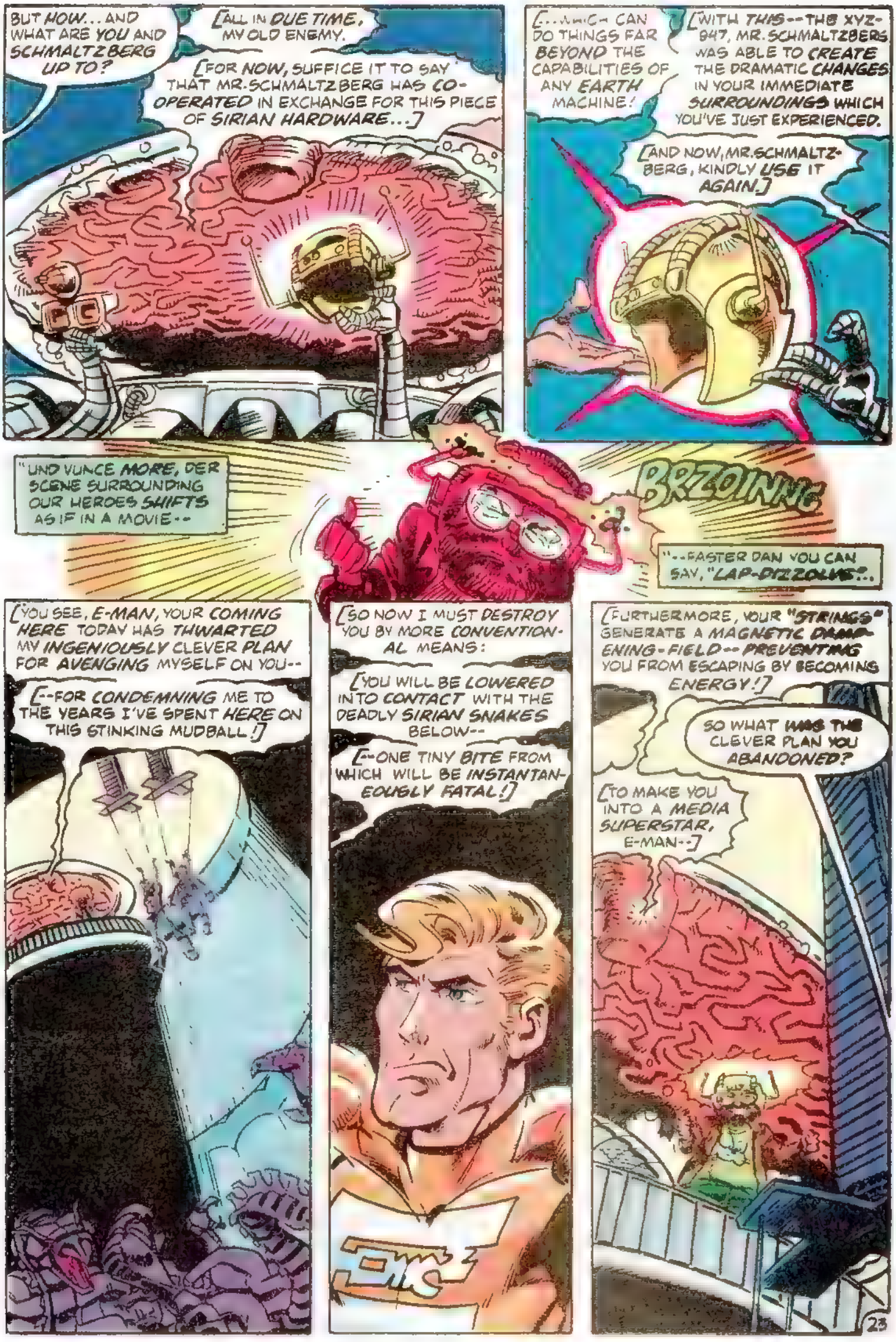

BUT HOW IN HELL--?!
I SUGGEST YOU DON'T QUESTION IT JUST THIS MINUTE, MR. MAUSER--
--BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT LESS THAN 30 SECONDS BEFORE BECOMING A BLOT ON THE LANDSCAPE!


I SEE WHAT YOU MEANT...
KER-SPLASH
TRONN! LOOK OUT FOR THE--
--ISLAND.
OWW.
KA-RUN-H
"NOT KNOWING WHAT ELSE TO DO, MAUSER UND E-MAN [illegible] DER PLACE VHERE DEY'VE BEEN SO UNCEREMONIOUSLY DUMPED.."

I COULDN'T HELP COMING HERE, MR. MAUSER!
ONCE WE WENT INTO THE WATER, IT WAS AS THOUGH I HAD NO CONTROL OVER MY OWN BODY!
IS IT MY IMAGINATION, OR ARE WE BEING MANIPULATED BY SOME--?
OH, MY GOD...

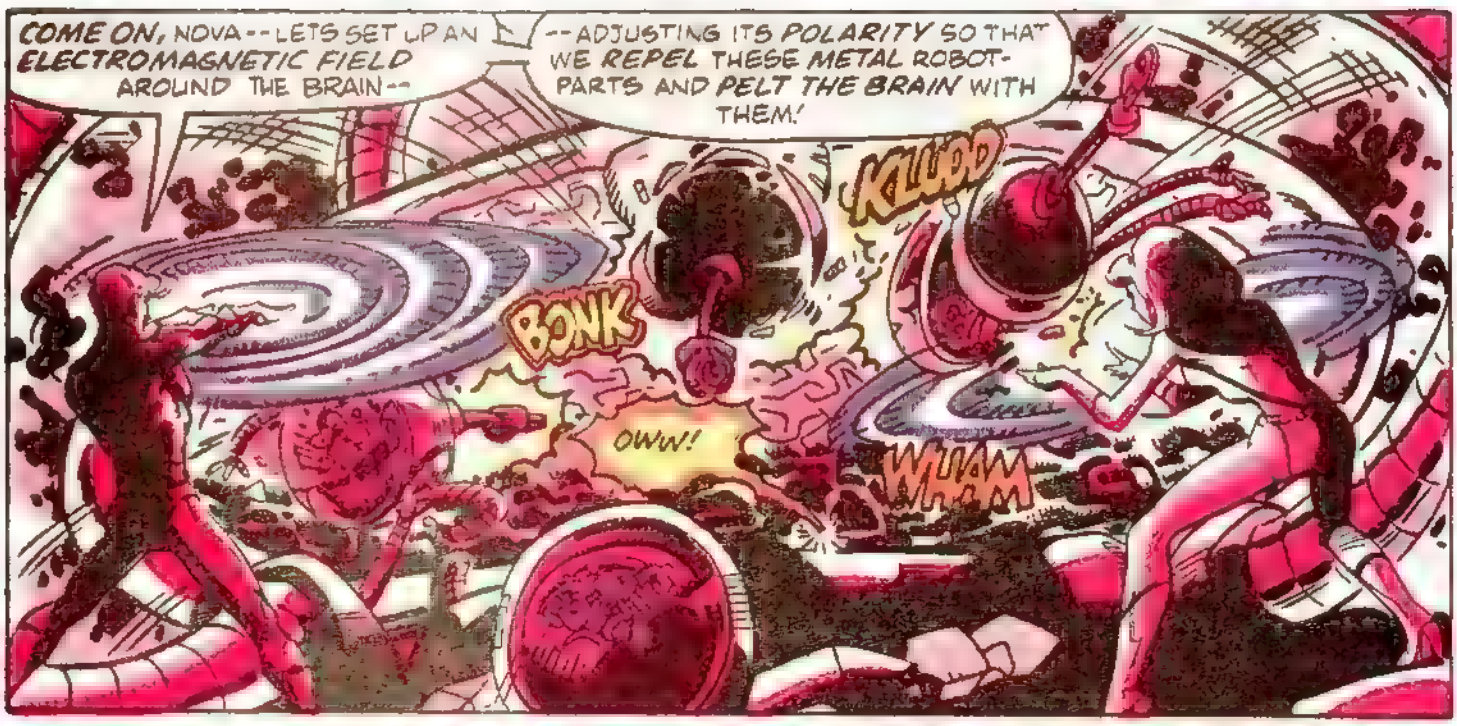
BLANK SHUT
LOOK!
DOES THAT ANSWER YER QUESTION, E-MAN?
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT ANY MORE--WE ARE BEIN' MANIPULATED, ALL RIGHT! AND--


--SINCE WE JUST STEPPED INTA A SCENE STRAIGHT OUTTA "RIDERS OF THE LAST BUICK"..
--I'LL BETCHA IT'S SCHMALTZBERG THAT'S DOIN' IT!
[NO, NOT MERELY SCHMALTZBERG--]
THE BRAIN FROM SIRIUS--?! YOU'RE ALIVE?!?!

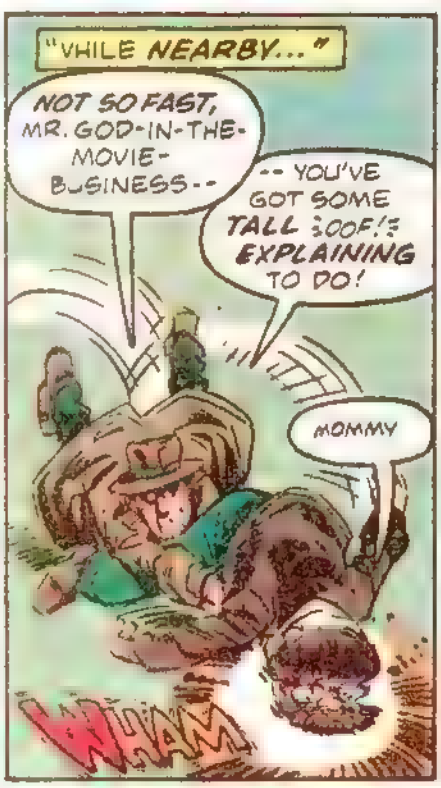

BUT HOW... AND WHAT ARE YOU AND SCHMALTZBERG UP TO?
[ALL IN DUE TIME, MY OLD ENEMY.
[FOR NOW, SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT MR. SCHMALTZBERG HAS CO-OPERATED IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS PIECE OF SIRIAN HARDWARE...]
[...WHICH CAN DO THINGS FAR BEYOND THE CAPABILITIES OF ANY EARTH MACHINE!
[WITH THIS--THE XYZ-847, MR. SCHMALTZBERG WAS ABLE TO CREATE THE DRAMATIC CHANGES IN YOUR IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS WHICH YOU'VE JUST EXPERIENCED.
[AND NOW, MR. SCHMALTZ-BERG, KINDLY USE IT AGAIN.]
"UND VUNCE MORE, DER SCENE SURROUNDING OUR HEROES SHIFTS AS IF IN A MOVIE--
BRZOINNG
"--FASTER DAN YOU CAN SAY, "LAP-DIZZOLVE"...
[YOU SEE, E-MAN, YOUR COMING HERE TODAY HAS THWARTED MY INGENIOUSLY CLEVER PLAN FOR AVENGING MYSELF ON YOU--
[--FOR CONDEMNING ME TO THE YEARS I'VE SPENT HERE ON THIS STINKING MUDBALL!]
[SO NOW I MUST DESTROY YOU BY MORE CONVENTION-AL MEANS:
[YOU WILL BE LOWERED INTO CONTACT WITH THE DEADLY SIRIAN SNAKES BELOW--
[--ONE TINY BITE FROM WHICH WILL BE INSTANTAN-EOUSLY FATAL!]
[FURTHERMORE, YOUR "STRINGS" GENERATE A MAGNETIC DAMP-ENING-FIELD--PREVENTING YOU FROM ESCAPING BY BECOMING ENERGY!]
SO WHAT WAS THE CLEVER PLAN YOU ABANDONED?
[TO MAKE YOU INTO A MEDIA SUPERSTAR, E-MAN--]
23

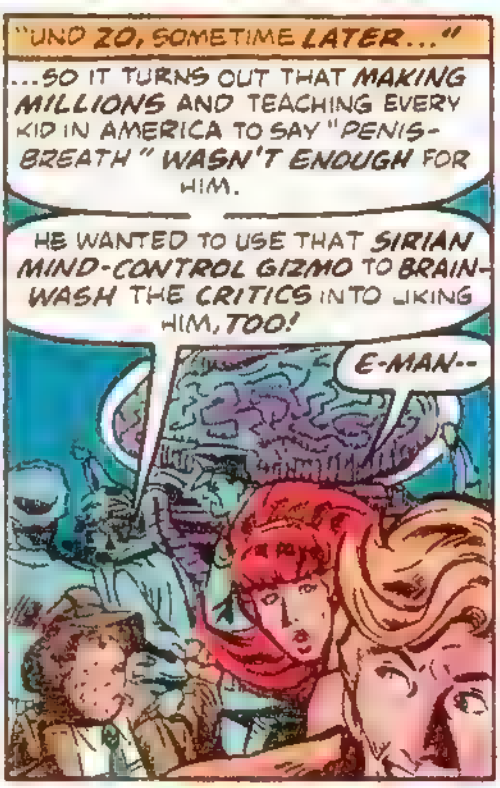
[--IN ORDER TO FIRST TAKE OVER, THEN EVENTUALLY DESTROY, PLANET EARTH.
[I HAVE NOTICED THAT YOUR MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL FIGURES ARE CHARISMATIC ACTORS--
[--FOR EXAMPLE, YOUR PRESIDENT AND EDWARD ASNER-- WHOM I HAVE VIEWED REPEATEDLY ON YOUR QUAINT T & V.]
HIS MAJESTY E-MAN!
HENCE MY DECISION TO MAKE YOU A STAR ACTOR... THEN RUN YOU FOR POLITICAL OFFICE.
[BUT MY SIRIAN MIND-CONTROL DEVICES WOULD HAVE ENSURED THAT YOU WOULD HAVE CROWNED YOURSELF KING OF EARTH.]
[AND IN TIME--IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE TRADITION OF EARTH LEADERS--
[--YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN ASSASSINATED..]
BUT WHAT IF THE ASSASSIN HAD FAILED?
[NO MATTER. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ACQUITTED WITH THE INSANITY DEFENSE--SO THAT LATER, HE COULD HAVE ANOTHER SHOT AT YOU.]
SOUNDS LIKE THE BRAIN FROM SIRIUS IN THERE! BUT... HOW CAN THAT BE?!
"DER BRAIN IS EVEN NOW EXPLAINING DOT TO OUR HEROES--WHO CONCLUDE DOT HE EXPERIENCED ATMOSPHERE-STARVATION BEFORE HIS DOME WAS REPAIRED..."
...SO HE MUST'VE SUFFERED A LITTLE BRAIN-DAMAGE!
MORE THAN A LITTLE. WE'RE TALKING MAJOR-LEAGUE LOONEY-TOON HERE.
YOU SPEND ALL THAT TIME WATCHING OLD RONALD REAGAN MOVIES, YOU'D GO NUTS, TOO.
24

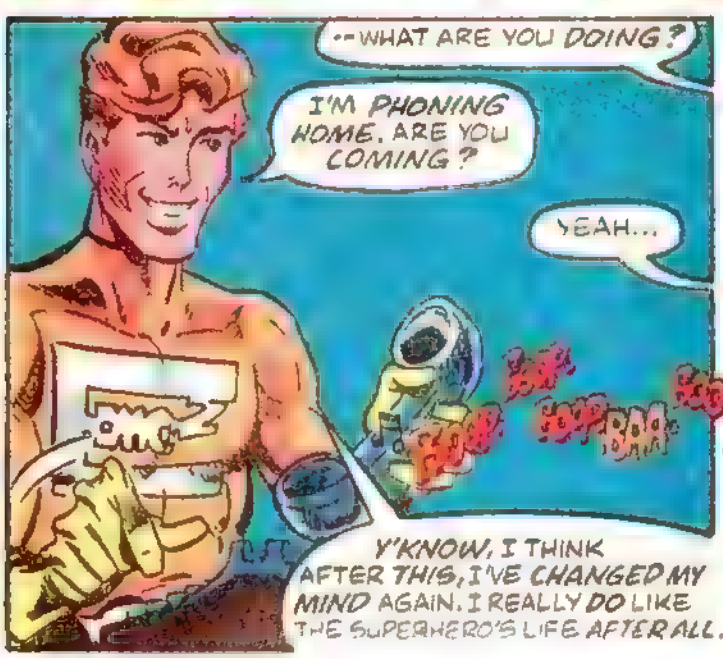
"SUDDENLY..."
[NOVA?! NO!]
BA-DOOM CHICKY-BOOM!
NOVA-- STAY BACK! THE SNAKES--!
SNAKES? WHAT SNAKES? I DON'T SEE ANY SNAKES!
WAIT A MINUTE--I REALLY DON'T SEE ANY SNAKES!
HMM... I THINK I KNOW WHY E-MAN DOES, THOUGH...
"...UND POOF!--DEY'RE BACK IN DER SCREENINK ROOM!
:GASP!: MOMMY--!
"MIT VUN VELL-PLAZED ENERGY-BOLT, NOVA DESTROYS DER 'XY7947'...
WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED?
NEAR AS I CAN FIGURE, THAT GIZMO WAS ANOTHER OF THE BRAIN'S THOUGHT-MANIPULATING DEVICES.
THE SNAKE-PIT WAS ONLY AN ILLUSION!
HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--
[LET ME OUT OF HERE, YOU TERRAN WORM!]
HEY!
RELAX, NOVA--
--THERE'S NO PROBLEM HERE THAT A LITTLE SHORT-CIRCUITING WON'T SOLVE!
ZZZAAPP!!!
25


COME ON, NOVA--LETS SET UP AN ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD AROUND THE BRAIN--
--ADJUSTING ITS POLARITY SO THAT WE REPEL THESE METAL ROBOT-PARTS AND PELT THE BRAIN WITH THEM!
KLUDD
BONK
OWW!
WHAM WHAM

NO MORE TROUBLE FROM OL' GRAY-MATTER, EH?
I DON'T THINK SO!
KRAKKLE! ABBA-DABBA-OOBA-GOOBA... ZZZTTT!


"WHILE NEARBY..."
NOT SO FAST, MR. GOD-IN-THE-MOVIE-BUSINESS--
-- YOU'VE GOT SOME TALL ROOF!? EXPLAINING TO DO!
MOMMY
WHAM


"UNO ZO, SOMETIME LATER..."
...SO IT TURNS OUT THAT MAKING MILLIONS AND TEACHING EVERY KID IN AMERICA TO SAY "PENIS-BREATH" WASN'T ENOUGH FOR HIM.
HE WANTED TO USE THAT SIRIAN MIND-CONTROL GIZMO TO BRAIN-WASH THE CRITICS INTO LIKING HIM, TOO!
E-MAN--


--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M PHONING HOME. ARE YOU COMING?
YEAH...
Y'KNOW, I THINK AFTER THIS, I'VE CHANGED MY MIND AGAIN. I REALLY DO LIKE THE SUPERHERO'S LIFE AFTER ALL.

WELL... I'M GLAD YOU'VE FOUND SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY, ALEC
ME, I WANT TO BE HUMAN AGAIN-- BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
SO I NEED A REAL MAN-- OF FLESH AND BLOOD, NOT SOME SOPHISTICATED IMITATION--

--TO MAKE ME FEEL HUMAN AGAIN.
STARRING IN THE WET-DREAMS OF COLORED LONGJOHN-LOVERS EVERYWHERE, I DON'T NEED.
I NEED SOMETHING MORE--MAYBE SOMEONE.
A MAN TO LOVE--NOT A MAN-CHILD TO MOTHER.
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT--CAN'T YOU, ALEC?
OF COURSE I CAN, NOVA. I'M NOT THE CHILD YOU THINK I AM.
I'M JUST A BIT... NEW TO THE WAYS OF HUMANS--THAT'S ALL.
RRUNNG
THEN PLEASE, ALEC--STOP BEING SO ...SO EVER-PRESENT IN MY LIFE, AND LET ME HAVE A MAN TO HOLD AT NIGHT--SOMEONE TO TELL MY SECRETS TO--
--SOMEONE I CAN CURL UP ALONGSIDE WITH THE TIMES ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON.
DOES THAT MAKE ANY SENSE TO YOU?
I...I GUESS SO...
HI, THIS IS NOVA KA--
BRAAAK!
UH... RIGHT GAG... ANYTHING YOU SAY.
I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT'S BETTER TO LEAVE THE ANSWERING-MACHINE OFF...
"MEANWHILE..."
I'VE DONE! I'VE DONE IT--
--THE F-MEN ARE A REALITY, BIRTH-WISE!...
...AND ONCE I UNLEASH THEM ON AN UNSUSPECTING WORLD, E-MAN WILL BE WASHED UP... A HAS-BEEN, HERO-WISE!

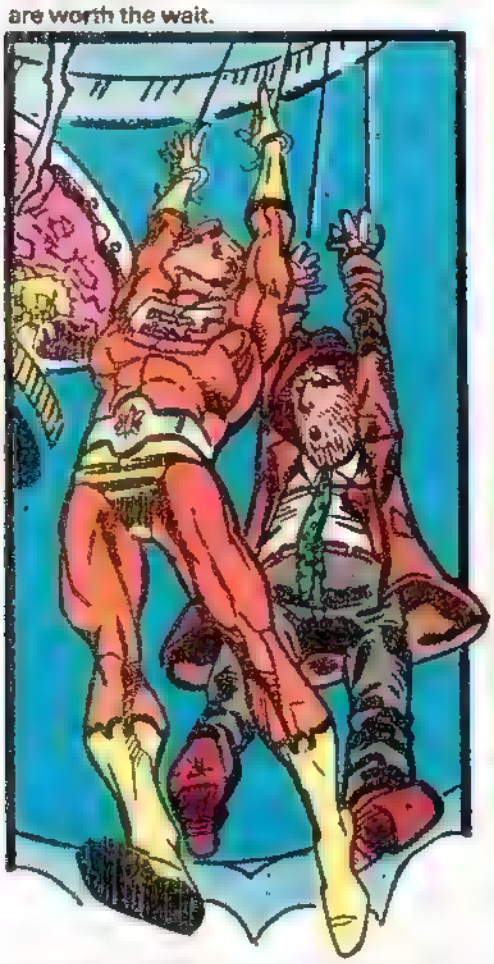
NEXT: ALONE against THE F-MEN!

E-MAIL

Of course the letter column's called "E-Mail!" Don't you have any respect for comics traditions?

When I first met Joe Staton, back in 1976, I told him how much I liked **E-Man.** He thanked me, with sort of a "Lord, I wish people would say hello first" look. I told him I thought it would be fun to buy the rights to the character and do it again. He agreed, informing me he was unsuccessful in his attempt.

Well, Joe, some things just won't die. And looking at the work you and Marty put in on this issue, some things definitely are worth the wait.



Initially, **E-Man** was published by Charlton during the first half of the 1970s. Charlton sort of faded in and out of the comics publishing business throughout that time, and after one slow fade-out in the middle of the decade, they winked back into existence without the services of Joe T. Staton, Alec Tronn, Nova Kane and Michael Mauser. The former picked up pen and board and moved over to Marvel, where he landed work on *The Hulk, The Avengers* and others; the latter stayed deeply entrenched in the hearts of comics fans of the time.

I've said this before, but it is more relevant here: I've sat next to Joe at many a comic book convention, watching people ask him for drawings, and I was amazed at how many people remembered **E-Man.** Kids who barely were born at the time of first publication came up to Joe, requesting **E-Man** sketches. And just about every fan said the same thing: "Why don't you bring back **E-Man?**"

Well, why not?

Between employment at Marvel and **First,** Joe labored over at DC, drawing *Superman, Batman, Plastic Man, Metal Men,* the *Legion of Super-Heroes,* the *Justice Society,* and others. He co-created two of DC's top super-hero hits of the past several years: *The Huntress* (created with Paul Levitz) and the *Omega Men* (created with Marv Wolfman). Joe moved out to Chicagoland (not a suburb of Disneyland) in late 1981 to become art director of **First Comics.** He is doing **E-Man** in his "spare time," all the while trying to invent a 36 hour day.

E-Man's co-creator, Nicola Cuti, has occupied many editorial positions: at Charlton, at Warren, and now at DC. It was his work as Len Wein's assistant editor that prohibited him from taking on the scripting chores on this book, and we regret DC's reservations.

However, we are quite, quite happy about the guy who is writing **E-Man.** Martin Pasko has earned his rank as one of the field's top talents; he undoubtably is one of the most caring and concerned writers currently practicing his craft. Marty has written lots of little-known comic features like *Superman, Wonder Woman, Plastic Man, Metal Men, Swamp Thing, Star Trek, Dr. Fate. . .* Indeed, he worked with Joe on *Plastic Man* and *Metal Men,* both first-class preparation for the type of absurdist approach used on **E-Man.**

Martin's credits also include a great deal of extracurricular activity. He has extensive large and small screen scriptwriting credits. He has written volumes of criticism, much of it for *The Comics Journal* and most of that dealing with the film medium. Marty also is an accomplished stage actor and director, having been a product of Northwestern University's much-respected theater department, a couple blocks from the **First Comics'** offices in Evanston.

He's also a real nice guy and a top-notch comics writer, as this issue of **E-Man** amply illustrates.

You will note **E-Man** isn't quite a full-length story: the remaining page in this book gives employment to another character from the old **E-Man** crowd, *Rog-2000,* the world's only cuddly robot. Rog used to have a bit more space in the back of the old **E-Man** comics; it's a shame he can't get any more for a while.

From time to time, I wonder what ever happened to Rog's creator, a guy named John Byrne, who had evidenced some embryonic talent over at Charlton.

Actually, giving credit where credit is due, John is somewhat busy these days, writing three books a month and penciling and inking two. Since John was nice enough to bring *Rog-2000* back to cele brate the return of **E-Man,** I can be just as nice and plug his newest monthly from Marvel, the Canadian super-team *Alpha Flight.*

John will get his next issue, as you will see near the bottom of the page

We would love to read, and maybe even print, your letters. I offered people incentives ("bribes" as they're known in the trade) in the letter column in this month's issue of **Warp** (on sale wherever better comics are sold, like the place you found this comic!); these incentives apply to **E-Man** as well. So, you're going to have to go out and buy a copy of **Warp #2** to find out what I'm talking about.

However, you can send those cards and letters to E-Mail, c/o First Comics, Inc. 1014 Davis Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201. Write today.

Next month: Ford Fairmont and the F-Men cause no little problems for our intrepid team, courtesy of Messrs. Pasko and Staton. If you buy one comic book next month, this should be the one! (Of course, so should **Warp #3,** for crying out loud!)

And have the happiest of Christmases, Chanukahs, Saturnalias, and/or New Years!

– Mike Gold,
Editor

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E-1

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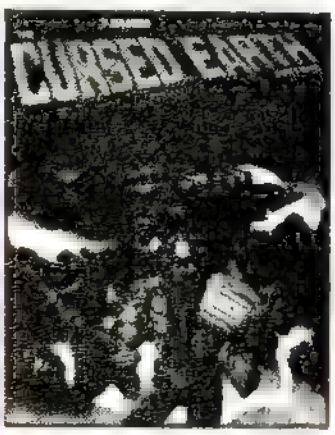

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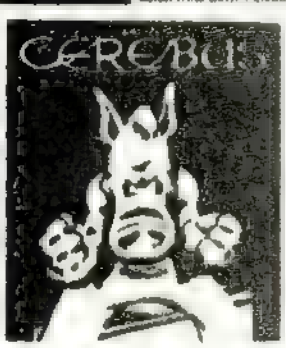

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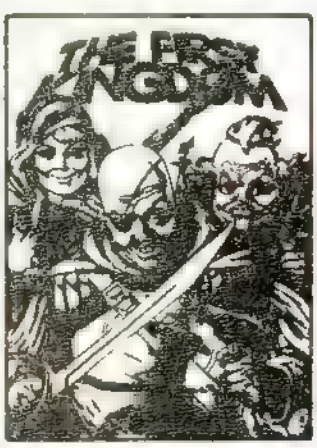

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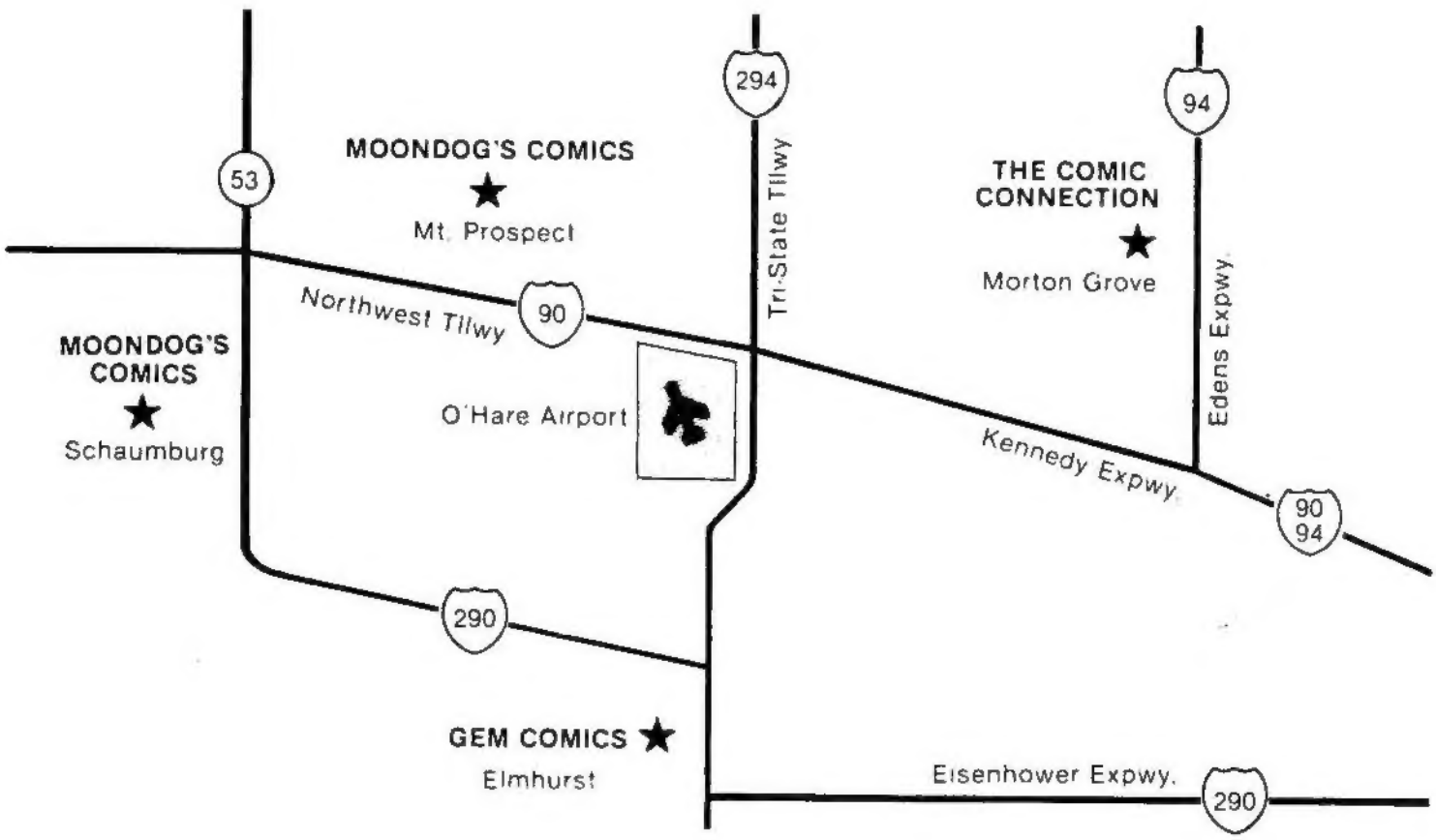

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__ Marvel Team-up
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__ Sgt. Rock
__ Spectacular Spiderman
__ Spiderman
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__ Star Wars
__ Superboy
__ Supergirl
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__ Swamp Thing
__ Tales of New Teen Titan (mini-series)
__ Team America
__ Teen Titans
__ Thor
__ Unknown Soldier
__ Vision/Scarlet Witch (mini-series)
__ Warlord
__ Weird War Tales
__ What If?
__ Wolverine (mini-series)
__ Wonder Woman
__ World's Finest Comics
__ X-Men

(For Marvel and DC magazines, please refer to Section VIII)

SECTION II DC and MARVEL SPECIALTY ITEMS

__ Marvel Graphic Novels
__ All DC Mini-Series
__ All Marvel Mini-Series

SECTION III
ARCHIE COMICS

__ All Archie First Issues
__ Archie Giant Series
__ Archie
__ Archie and Me
__ Archie at Riverdale High
__ Archie's Joke Book
__ Archie's Pals n' Gals
__ Archie's T.V. Laughout
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__ Jughead's Jokes
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SECTION IV
HARVEY COMICS

__ Harvey First Issues
__ Casper the Friendly Ghost
__ Devil Kids
__ Hot Stuff
__ Richie Rich
__ RR and Cadbury
__ RR and Casper
__ RR and Dollar the Dog
__ RR and Gloria
__ RR and his Girlfriends
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__ RR Bank Books
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__ RR Collectors' Comics
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__ RR Fortunes
__ RR Gems
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__ RR Profits
__ RR Riches
__ RR Success Stories
__ RR Vaults of Mystery
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__ Sad Sack
__ Sad Sack & The Sarge

SECTION V
SPECIALTY AND DIRECT SALE PUBLISHERS

__ Captain Victory (Pacific)
__ Mr. Mystic (Pacific)
__ Pacific Presents (Pacific)
__ Rog 2000 (Pacific)
__ Starslayer (Pacific)
__ Destroyer Duck (Eclipse)
__ Nexus (Capital)
__ Sabre (Eclipse)
__ Scorpio Rose (Eclipse)
__ Star Jammer & The Peace Machine (Comely)
__ Thunder Agents (Carbonero)
__ X-Men Companion (Fantagraphics)

(see the magazine section for more specialty publishers as well!)

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CHARLTON COMICS

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__ Battlefield Action
__ Billy The Kid
__ Charlton Bullseye
__ Fightin' Army
__ Fightin' Five
__ Fightin' Marines
__ Ghost Manor
__ Ghostly Haunts
__ Haunted (Baron Weirwulf)
__ Soap Opera Romances
__ War

SECTION VII DIGESTS

__ Archie Where R U Digest
__ Archie Comics Digest
__ Best of DC Digest
__ Best of Dennis Digest (Marvel)
__ Archie Double Digest
__ Betty/Veronica Annual Digest
__ Casper Digest Stories
__ Casper Digest Winners
__ Dennis the Menace Digest (Marvel)
__ Jokebook Comics Digest
__ Jughead Jones Digest
__ Jughead/Archie Digest
__ Laugh Comics Digest
__ Little Archie Digest
__ Madhouse Comics Digest
__ Richie Rich Best of Years
__ RR Digest Stories
__ RR Digest Winners
__ RR Holiday Digest
__ RR Million Dollar Digest
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SECTION VIII MAGAZINES AND SPECIALTY ITEMS

(fanzines or strictly comics items are denoted by asterisks)

__ Adventure Illustrated*** (New Media)
__ Amazing Heroes***
__ Analog
__ Bizarre Adventures*** (Marvel)
__ Cerebus the Aardvark***
__ Cinefantastique***
__ Cinefex***
__ Cinemagic (Starlog)
__ Club
__ Club International
__ Comic Reader***
__ Comics Feature*** (New Media)
__ Comics Journal***
__ Comics Newsline***
__ Comics Scene*** (Starlog)
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__ Cracked Specials
__ Crazy*** (Marvel)
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__ Eclipse Magazine***
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__ Enterprise Incidents*** (New Media)
__ Epic*** (Marvel)
__ Famous Monsters (Warren)
__ Fangoria (Starlog)
__ Fantaco Chronicles*** (Fantaco)
__ Fantastic Films
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__ Marvel Comics Index*** (Pacific)
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__ Nat Lamp Specials
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__ Omni
__ Omni Specials
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__ Starlog Specials
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SECTION IX
TREASURIES AND POCKETBOOKS

__ All DC Treasuries
__ All Marvel Treasuries
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__ All Marvel Pocketbooks

(For information on WHITMAN comics and BRITISH publications, please write us!)